A woman tried to stab a Hartford detective Tuesday, police say. **Connecticut, Page 1**

Naming contest

State DOT invites residents to name at least four of its snowplows. **Connecticut, Page 1**

Julian Assange

British court rules Wikileaks founder to be extradited to the U.S. **News, Page 4**

Scattered showers



Warm front bringing temps near 60. **Sports, Page 8**



VOLUME CLXXXV COURANT.COM SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2021

Enforcement on highways down

State police stops have plummeted in pandemic; COVID-19 fears, morale may be part of problem

By Christopher Keating Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — New statistics show that traffic enforcement by the Connecticut State Police has dropped by more than half since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite vehicles driving faster,

enforcement is down sharply in several major categories, including total stops, tickets issued, and warnings given to drivers.

Traffic stops by troopers peaked most recently in 2014 with nearly 235,000 stops, according to statistics from the Institute of Municipal and Regional Policy at UConn in Hartford. That total fell to 157,007 in 2019 and then 75,988 in 2020 — the year that the ongoing pandemic started. The total dropped further to 59,891 for the first 10 months of this year.

Andrew Matthews, a retired sergeant who serves as executive director of the state troopers union, said the three key reasons for lack of enforcement are a drop in staffing by at least 300 troopers, concerns about the COVID-19 virus spreading to troopers, and low police morale that was caused

by the new police accountability law that many officers opposed.

"Now, more than ever, there's an anti-law enforcement movement at the Capitol with the legislators" Matthews said in an interview. "Our troopers saw it with the police accountability bill. When you don't feel supported, you're not eager to go out and self-initiate motor vehicle stops. When you feel like you're not going to be supported by the legislature, when you feel you're not supported by

the command staff, and you're going to be attacked and have internal affairs complaints and go through all that."

He added, "We have cars that go by our troopers on the highway at 100 miles per hour. ... They're not stopping for us. They could not care less."

Despite the reasons cited by Matthews, Gov. Ned Lamont said Friday that he does not attribute

Turn to Highways, Page 3



West Hartford resident Benoit Faugas receives a COVID-19 booster shot at Hartford Hospital as hospitalizations reached 500 for first time since April and health leaders have pushed for more vaccinations. By Friday the number of people hospitalized with coronavirus climbed to 585. The surge has led Yale New Haven Health to prioritize unvaccinated patients for monoclonal antibody treatment for COVID-19. MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

Treatment demand forces prioritization

Amid surge in cases, Yale New Haven limiting who gets monoclonal antibodies

By Alex Putterman
Hartford Courant

As more patients have developed COVID-19 symptoms over recent months, at least one Connecticut health provider has been forced to limit who receives potentially lifesaving treatment.

An official with Yale New Haven Health confirmed this week that the health system is now prioritizing unvaccinated patients for monoclonal antibody treatment, under the reasoning that those patients are most vulnerable to developing severe COVID-

19 symptoms.

Monoclonal antibodies are typically given to patients with mild or moderate cases of COVID-19 who doctors fear may progress to severe disease and/or hospitelization

"Starting the week after Thanksgiving, the demand for the monoclonal [antibodies] started to far exceed our capacity to deliver it, so we needed to move to a more restrictive criteria," said Leeann Miller, Yale New Haven's chief pharmacy officer. "If you are fully vaccinated, you're not going to be prioritized as high as those

who are not fully vaccinated."

Before Connecticut's recent COVID-19 surge, the criteria for vaccinated and unvaccinated people receiving monoclonal antibodies were identical, Miller said.

Connecticut's coronavirus cases and hospitalizations have surged in the past six weeks, reaching levels not previously recorded since last winter. As of Friday, the state reported 585 people hospitalized with COVID-19, up from fewer than 200 at the end of October.

Turn to Treatment, Page 2

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Texas abortion law left in place

But justices offer clinics limited list of targets to sue

By Mark Sherman Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Friday left in place Texas' ban on most abortions, offering only a glimmer of daylight for clinics in the state to challenge the nation's most restrictive abortion law.

The decision, little more than a week after the court signaled it would roll back abortion rights and possibly overturn its landmark Roe v. Wade decision, was greeted with dismay by abortion rights supporters but praise by opponents.

Five conservative justices, including three appointed by former President Donald Trump, formed a majority to limit who can be sued by the clinics, a result that both sides said probably will prevent federal courts from effectively blocking the law.

Texas licensing officials may be sued, but not state court judges, court clerks or state Attorney General Ken Paxton, the court ruled. That seems to leave people free, under the unusual structure of the Texas law, to sue abortion clinics and anyone else who "aids or abets" an abortion performed after cardiac activity is detected in an embryo, around six weeks and before some women know they're pregnant.

"The Supreme Court has essentially greenlit Texas's cynical scheme and prevented federal courts from blocking an unconstitutional law," the Center for Reproductive Rights, which represents the Texas clinics, said on Twitter

The court acted more than a month after hearing arguments over the law, which makes no exceptions for rape or incest.

The law has been in place for

Turn to Abortion, Page 2

CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

Proof-of-vaccination app is coming soon

By Daniela Altimari Hartford Courant

Connecticut will offer a new cellphone app that provides digital proof of COVID-19 vaccination by the end of the year, Gov. Ned Lamont said Friday.

The Democratic governor ruled out a statewide mask mandate, which New York Gov. Kathy Hochul will reinstate on Monday. Instead, Lamont is backing a voluntary proof-of-vaccination app that would allow vaccinated people to participate in social activities without masking.

"I think what I want to do is get that digital health card [and] make it available to every single business, restaurant, store," Lamont said.

"Let them make the right deci-

Turn to App, Page 2



This illustration shows a person looking at the app for the New York State Excelsior Pass, which provides secure, digital proof of a COVID-19 vaccination. CHRIS DELMAS/GETTY-AFP

Split verdict in energy co-op junketeering case

Norwich-based group has three officers convicted over lavish spending

By Edmund H. Mahony Hartford Courant

A jury delivered a split verdict Friday in a widely watched trial about corporate junketeering, convicting three officers of an energy cooperative of spending ratepayer money on lavish entertaining, while finding two other officers not guilty and acquitting everyone of additional charges involving all-expense paid trips.

The verdict was returned in a case involving the Norwich-based Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative, a nonprofit, wholesale electricity co-op that arranges low cost power to member utilities with in Norwich, Groton, Griswold, Bozrah and Norwalk.

Federal prosecutors spent most of last month trying to persuade jurors in New Haven that three

Turn to Verdict, Page 3

What went wrong during UConn women's loss?

After the short-handed No. 3 Huskies lost to Georgia Tech 57-44 on Thursday in Atlanta, coach Geno Auriemma offered mostly fatalism. "I don't think it's going to get fixed," he said of the team's struggling offense. Here's a look at what they need to do to win. **Sports, Page 1**

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FROM PAGE ONE



Activists gather in a protest against Texas' abortion law in September at the state Capitol. JAY JANNER/AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN

Abortion

from Page 1

about three months, since Sept. 1. The Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade ruling that legalized abortion nationwide has stood since 1973.

Justice Neil Gorsuch, who has consistently voted against abortion rights, did not mention Roe in his main opinion for the court Friday. Gorsuch is one of the Trump appointees, along with Justices Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett.

Abortion providers will now attempt to run the same legal gantlet that has previously frustrated them. The federal judge who already has once blocked the law, known as S.B. 8, almost certainly will be asked to do so again. Then his decision would be reviewed by the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which has twice voted to allow enforcement of the abortion ban.

In any case, it all could return to the justices, and so far there have not been five votes on the nine-member court to put the law on hold while the legal fight plays

"The Court should have put an end to this madness months ago, before S. B. 8 first went into effect. It failed to do so then, and it fails again today," Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote in a separate opinion Friday.

The court's conservative majority also seems likely to roll back abortion rights in a Mississippi case that was argued last week, although that decision is not expected until spring.

If Roe is overruled, the fight over the Texas law would be largely beside the point because Texas is one of 12 states with a trigger law that would ban abortion in a post-Roe world.

Friday's high court ruling came a day after a state court judge in Texas ruled that the law's enforcement, which rewards lawsuits against violators by awarding judgments of \$10,000, is unconstitutional yet left the law in

The legal fight over the Texas law is focused on its unusual structure and whether it improperly limits how the law can be challenged in court. Texas lawmakers handed responsibility for enforcing the law to private citizens, rather than state officials.

The law authorizes lawsuits against clinics, doctors and others who perform or facilitate a banned abortion. The case raised a complex set of issues about who, if anyone, can sue over the law in federal court, the typical route for challenges to abortion restrictions. Indeed, federal courts routinely put a hold on similar laws, which rely on traditional enforcement by state and local authorities.

The Supreme Court voted Friday 8-1 in favor of allowing the clinics' lawsuit against the ban to proceed, with only Justice Clarence Thomas voting the other way.

But the court was sharply divided, 5-4, on the knotty issue of whom to target with a court order that ostensibly tries to block the law. The justices ruled that Texas licensing officials may be sued, but dismissed claims against state court judges, court clerks and the state attorney general.

Gorsuch wrote that abortion providers have to follow the same rules that apply to people asserting other constitutional rights. "The Court has consistently applied these requirements whether the challenged law in question is said to chill the free exercise of religion, the freedom of speech, the right to bear arms or any other right. The petitioners are not entitled to a special exemption," Gorsuch wrote.

Chief Justice John Roberts and the three liberal justices dissented from that part of the decision in an opinion that said the purpose of the Texas law was "to nullify this court's rulings" on abortion.

"The nature of the federal right infringed does not matter; it is the role of the Supreme Court in our constitutional system that is at stake," Roberts wrote.

App from Page 1

sion in terms of allowing people into their facility. Letting them have the information [that] if a person's unvaccinated, they've got to wear a mask."

He added: "I don't think we need more mandates than that."

The digital vaccine passport endorsed by Lamont will be rolled out on a regional basis later this month. The system will use a QR code displayed from a cellphone that can be scanned to verify a person's vaccination status.

Rhode Island plans to release an app-based vaccination verification program this month and Charlie Baker, the Republican governor of Massachusetts, said his state is on board as well.

But the idea has become contentious in some places. At least a dozen states have banned proof-of-vaccination requirements.

Lamont stood by his deci-

sion to let local communities determine what COVID-19 precautions are appropriate in the face of rising rates.

"The towns are the ones that are taking the lead on enforcing it," he said Friday, following a press conference announcing the appointment of a new state comptroller. "Store and restaurant owners are the ones who know ... how to enforce it, the best way to do it. I'm giving them all the tools they need once we get the digital card available."

Lamont said he was "a little surprised" by the spike in COVID-19 hospitalizations, from 200 to 550 just in the last few weeks. 'That said, we do have good capacity in our hospitals," he said.

The digital passport will tie into the state's vaccination database. Lamont said he wanted to make sure it was "absolutely secure and authentic so we know people can't play games. We wanted to do something in association with Rhode Island and Massachusetts

and I understand New York is revisiting that as well so we can do it on a regional

The card could be available before the end of the year, the governor said. They had a false-start testing it in one of the neighboring states. They're testing it again ... first thing next week and assuming that test goes well, we'll be in good shape within say 10 days."

"Do I wish we had had it five months ago? Sure," Lamont said. "But we're going to have it."

Lamont has carefully avoided using the term "vaccine passport," which has become politicized by opponents of COVID-19 vaccination requirements.

"I call it a digital health card," he said. "Here's the reason ... passport everybody says 'oh my God, another mandate. You're going to make me do this.' I'm trying to avoid that. I'm trying to say, 'here's one more tool businesses can used to keep their customers and employees safe."

Treatment

from Page 1

This has strained hospitals, which are already treating a full load of non-coronavirus patients.

Miller said Yale New Haven has plenty of monoclonal antibodies but lacks the space and staff to administer them within the appropriate timeframe. An emergency use authorization from the Food and Drug Administration requires that patients be treated with monoclonal antibodies within 10 days of the onset of their symp-

"More people are getting referred to us because they're positive with COIVD, and because we're already extremely busy in the hospitals treating people who don't have COVID, it really is an issue of space and staff limita-

tions," she said. "We have a large number of patients that want it in a very short amount of time, and there just isn't the space and staff to treat them.'

Connecticut's other largest health system, Hartford HealthCare, says it has not yet had to limit who gets monoclonal antibodies.

"The criteria for the monoclonals, at this point it is not changing," said Eric Arlia, Hartford Health-Care's pharmacy director. "There are no supply constraints at this time, so we would like to continue to just follow the [FDA's emergency use authorization] and just figure out ways we can treat more people as the demand has increased pretty significantly over the past two months."

Under Yale New Haven's new criteria, vaccinated people 65 and older who have not received a booster shot may still receive monoclonal antibodies, along with other vaccinated people who have severely weakened immune systems. Unvaccinated people, on the other hand, may receive monoclonal antibodies as long as they are 65 or older or have any of a long list of underlying conditions, including obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease and more.

Though Connecticut's hospitals are not currently at or near their capacity, Miller said the need to restrict monoclonal antibody treatment demonstrates the consequences of letting COVID-19 spread

"We absolutely are doing everything we can to treat as many patients as we can, but it's the situation we're in," she said.

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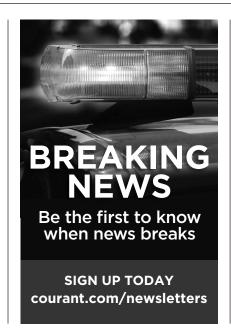
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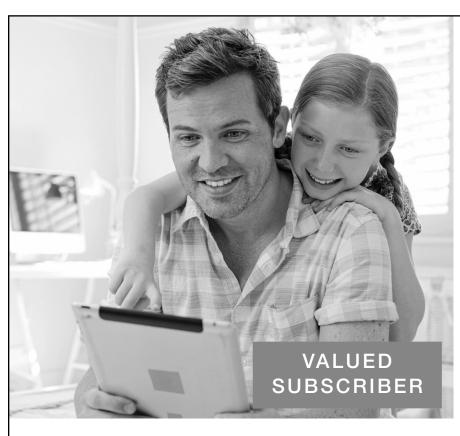
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The late lotto numbers were not drawn in time for this edition. For results, please visit courant.com/ lotterv.

THURSDAY'S LATE NUMBERS

LUCKY FOR LIFE 8 21 23 25 41 LB: 16

Tuesday's est. Lotto jackpot: \$2.5 million Tonight's est. Powerball jackpot: \$307 million



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FROM PAGE ONE

NEWS BRIEFING

Jan. 6 committee subpoenas six who helped plan rallies

From news services

WASHINGTON - The House committee investigating the Jan. 6 Capitol insurrection is subpoenaing six more people who the panel says were involved in the organization and planning of rallies that aimed to overturn Donald Trump's defeat in the 2020 presidential election.

The committee chairman, Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., said some worked to stage the events and "some appeared to have had direct communication" with then-President Trump as they were planning.

The subpoenas were issued to Robert "Bobby" Peede Jr. and Max Miller, who the committee says met with Trump in his private dining room Jan. 4; Brian Jack, Trump's political director at the time; and rally organizers Bryan Lewis, Ed Martin and Kimberly Fletcher.

The rallies before and during the Jan. 6 riot are a major focus of the committee's investigation. Committee members have said they want to know who financed the events and whether organizers were in close touch with the White House and members of Congress as

they planned the events. At the largest Jan. 6 rally, on the Ellipse near the White House, Trump riled up the crowd and told them to "fight like hell." He said he would march to the Capitol with them, but he eventually returned to the White House. Miller, a former Trump aide who is running for Congress in Ohio, said in a statement Thursday that he had received notice he would be subpoenaed and

would accept it but also "defend my rights."

"Upon taking office, I will make sure one of my first votes is to disband this partisan committee that has weaponized its powers against innocent Americans," Miller said.

Virus outbreak: More states desperate to defend against COVID-19 are calling on the National Guard and other military personnel to assist virus-weary medical staffs at hospitals and other care centers.

People who became sick after refusing to get vaccinated are overwhelming hospitals in certain states, especially in the Northeast and the Upper Midwest. New York, meanwhile, announced a statewide indoor mask order, effective Monday and lasting five weeks through the holiday

"We're entering a time of uncertainty, and we could either plateau here or our cases could get out of control," Gov. Kathy Hochul warned Friday.

The seven-day rolling average for daily new cases in the U.S. rose over the past two weeks to 117,677 by Thursday, compared to 84,756 on Nov. 25, Thanksgiving Day, according to Johns Hopkins University. The number of people hospitalized with COVID-19 has soared to about 54,000 on average, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Britain virus: Tighter restrictions to curb the coronavirus came into force in Britain on Friday, as the government faced new allegations that officials flouted rules they



Fighting for freedom: Nobel Peace Prize winners Dmitry Muratov from Russia, right, and Maria Ressa of the Philippines, embrace Friday during the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony at Oslo City Hall, Norway. The Norwegian Nobel Committee cited Ressa and Muratov's fight for freedom of expression, stressing that it is vital in promoting peace. ALEXANDER ZEMLIANICHENKO/AP

had imposed on the nation with lockdown-breaking parties last Christmas.

Face masks are once again compulsory in indoor public spaces in England under the measures British Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced this week to slow the spread of the new omicron virus variant. Vaccination passes will be needed for nightclubs and large events starting next week, and residents will be told to work from home, if possible.

The emergence of omicron, which is spreading quickly in Britain, has shaken the government's hopes that vaccinations would be enough to keep the virus in check. British scientists and officials say omicron spreads more quickly than the currently dominant delta variant and likely is more resistant to current vaccines. It is not

yet clear whether it causes more severe or milder cases of COVID-19.

The return of restrictions is unwelcome for many, and revelations of apparent rule-breaking by government officials during tough lockdowns last winter have heightened opposition to the new measures.

Georgia election audit: Days after announcing his candidacy for governor, Republican David Perdue further embraced debunked claims of electoral fraud in Georgia's 2020 presidential race by joining a lawsuit seeking to prove he and former President Donald Trump were cheated out of election victories.

The suit claims that fraudulent or counterfeit ballots were counted in Fulton County, the state's most populous jurisdiction, although investigators rebutted the same claims previously.

Perdue's lawsuit amplifies claims that the former senator has made this week since announcing a challenge to incumbent Gov. Brian Kemp on Monday. Perdue told Axios and Atlanta Journal-Constitution that he wouldn't have certified Georgia's 2020 results if he had been governor then, unlike Kemp. Georgia law says the governor must certify results.

Taiwan loses ally: Taiwan lost Nicaragua as a diplomatic ally after the Central American country said it would officially recognize only China, which claims self-ruled Taiwan as part of its territory.

"There is only one China," the Nicaraguan government said in a statement Thurs-

day announcing the change. "The People's Republic of China is the only legitimate government that represents all China, and Taiwan is an inalienable part of the

Chinese territory."
"As of today, Nicaragua breaks its diplomatic relations with Taiwan and ceases to have any official contact or relationship," it added.

The move increases Taiwan's diplomatic isolation on the international stage, even as the self-governed island steps up official exchanges with countries such as Lithuania and Slovakia, which do not formally recognize Taiwan as a country. Now, Taiwan has 14 diplomatic allies remaining.

Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed "sadness and regret" and said it would immediately recall its diplomatic staff.

Highways from Page 1

part of the enforcement drop-off to morale problems from the police accountabil-

"I don't think so," Lamont said. "We've got a good flow of folks that want to be state police. I know that. I think all across sectors of our economy, people are still having a hard time recruiting."

Rep. Stephen Stafstrom, a Bridgeport Democrat who helped write the accountability law, said that short staffing is an issue but dismissed the idea that the police accountability law translates into fewer traffic

"To blame a piece of legislation that clearly does not prohibit anyone from doing a job that they would be assigned to do is pure political sour grapes and nothing more than that," Stafstrom said. "I am not a proponent of pulling over folks for going a few miles over the speed limit. But I think we have all seen a fair amount of reckless driving on our highways that folks should be pulled over for, where you're going 20 or 30 miles per hour over the speed limit, weaving in and out of the four lanes of I-95. That's a different story."

He added, "So what are the troopers doing with their spare time?"

Besides the number of



New statistics show traffic enforcement by the Connecticut State Police has dropped by more than half since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

total stops, the new statistics show that stops with tickets issued also dropped by more than 50% from 105,000 in 2019 to slightly more than 45,000 in 2020. Tickets dropped further again to 27,596 for the first 10 months of this year. Stops with warnings from troopers fell from 2019 to 2020. but then rebounded in the first 10 months this year at more than 27,000 warnings, surpassing all of 2020.

For both state and local police, the combined number of stops statewide dropped from 512,000 in 2019 to about 188,000 in

Democrats who supported the police accountability law and Republicans who opposed it have remained divided over whether the measure will improve policing across the state. At the same time, police chiefs and rank-andfile officers say they are concerned the new law will lead to difficulties in recruiting new officers and prompt some older officers to retire at a time of low morale.

The detailed law mandates that all officers must wear body cameras. bans the use of chokeholds in most cases and creates a new independent inspector general to investigate deadly use of force by police.

An overriding issue is staffing at the state police. The total of troopers peaked at 1,283 under Republican Gov. M. Jodi Rell about 15 years ago, and the number has dropped below 900 at times due to retirements. Currently, 65 troopers are being trained at the police academy.

"I want to bring our state police force back to where it was 10 years ago," Lamont said when asked by The Courant. "We've obviously slipped over the last decade. We've added additional classes of state police every year I've been here. The number of state police is growing, but we also have retirements coming up over the next six months — so I've got to watch that very carefully."

An estimated 276 troopers will be eligible to retire by July 1, 2022 - when changes in the cost-of-living adjustments in state pensions could prompt a large number of retirements. Attrition at the younger levels is an issue, too. State police made 127 offers last year to candidates, leading to 120 starting in the academy, officials said. But only 83 graduated because many dropped out due to the

rigorous training process. Regarding the sharp drop in enforcement totals at the start of the pandemic and throughout 2020, Lamont said, "There was certainly no formal pullback. Maybe people felt a little more cautious about stopping people during the worst of COVID, trying to avoid faceto-face encounters. But I haven't heard that."

"I think it's a well-known fact that after 12 months of quarantine, some people are driving like a bat out of hell," Lamont said. "It's not for lack of enforcement. The police are doing everything they can. I take it they're going to get even stricter on it because it could be a dangerous situation."

Brian Foley, a top aide to state police commissioner James Rovella, said Connecticut is seeing the same trends as those around the country.

"There is an industrywide move across law enforcement to shift on the prioritization of traffic stops. especially for your low-level violations," Foley said in an interview. "There is an absolute decline in motor vehicle stops around the country.... I don't think we'll ever return to the numbers in traffic enforcement that we saw in 2014."

Foley said the decline in enforcement is not due to the state's accountability

"Every police department in the country is facing morale issues, and that trips down into traffic stops," Foley said. "If you look at all the external pressures on police officers, you can understand that."

While the year-end figures will not be available until next year, Foley cited an uptick in enforcement in the four months leading up to Halloween.

"In this moment, where we are today, it's a police commander's greatest challenge on how to motivate his staff or troopers and that goes toward motivating them to get guns off the street, preventing stolen cars, and motivating them to increase traffic enforcement," Foley said. "That's the greatest challenge right now with morale issues all across the country."

Christopher Keating can be reached at ckeating@ courant.com

Verdict

from Page 1

board members and the energy cooperative's two senior paid employees stole more than a million dollars from ratepayers and spent it on chartered air trips for dozens or friends and family members, twice to the Kentucky Derby and once to a luxury golf resort in West Virginia.

The five — all of whom are no longer in office — claimed that the trips were legitimate corporate team-building exercises. They told the jury that the collaboration made the energy cooperative a highly successful operation and the pricey getaways built *esprit de corp*s, while giving them an opportunity

to relax, recharge and recon-

Jurors sent back a mixed message Friday afternoon after about two days of deliberation. They convicted CMEEC CEO Drew Rankin, board chairman James Sullivan and board member John Bilda of stealing from a federally subsidized utility and using more than \$300,000 to fly friends and family on all-expense paid trips in 2015 to the Kentucky Derby and The Greenbrian in West Virginia. But the jury acquitted cooperative CFO Edward Pryor and board member Edward DeMuzzio, who participated in the same trips.

The jury also acquitted all five men of a conspiracy charge and another theft charge that arose from a second, \$374,000 Derby trip

The verdict seemed to surprise both the prosecution and defense. The U.S. Attorney's office declined to discuss the verdict. Members of the defense were planning legal challenges and an appeal of the three convictions are likely. Immediately after the jury announced it had a verdict, Rankin's lawyer, Craig Raabe, raised questions about whether Rankin, Sullivan and Bilda could be convicted of theft after being found not guilty of conspiring to steal the money.

The guilty verdict applied to a Derby trip that Rankin arranged for 30 people to fly by private charter from Groton to Louisville for a four-day Kentucky Derby trip in late April and May

2015. The trip cost \$294,917. The indictment in the case says Rankin spent weeks inviting the cooperative's employees, friends and associates - among them Sullivan's brother, sister-in-law and son. He printed a 16-page pamphlet called "2015 Strategic Retreat: Members and **Guests Appreciation Cele**bration." It asked invitees: "Are you ready for some genuine Kentucky Experience and Derby Fun? Yes, a most wonderful time of year, where we take a few moments to celebrate and honor you as dedicated and awesome board members and your Strategic Guests/ Partners, who give so much of your precious time and

talent to CMEEC and the CMEEC member utilities."

Bilda, who was a city of Norwich employee as well as a CMEEC board member, was one of the Derby attendees. Prosecutors said he asked that the city reimburse him \$206.61 in personal expenses he incurred at the Derby.

The jury also convicted Rankin, Sullivan and Bilda for two trips to The Greenbriar in 2015. On the first, the three and DeMuzzio spent \$21,000 of utility money on a scouting trip to West Virginia to "evaluate the location" for yet another "strategic retreat," this one focused on the state's luxurious golf resorts.

The advance work led to a "Member Delegation Strategic Retreat" at The Greenbriar involving a group similar to that participating in the earlier Derby trip. It cost about \$112,000, including \$3,426.80 for golf balls imprinted with the faces of some of the invited guests and purchased from a company owned by Bilda's wife. At the end of the trip, Rankin approved another \$2,264.57 for the purchase by the guests of 17 scarfs from the resort "ladies shop" for gifts back home, the government contends.

The jury acquitted all five men of theft charges arising from a second Kentucky Derby trip in 2016. The conspiracy charge, of which all were acquitted, involved planning to defraud rate payers and the government, which subsidizes utility

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New inflation number feeds angst

Republicans say Dems' \$2T bill will fuel higher prices

By Alan Fram Associated Press

WASHINGTON Government reports on rising inflation and on the potential costs of President Joe Biden's social and environment legislation raised fresh questions Friday about the bill's fate, with both sides hoping the new numbers would influence pivotal Sen. Joe Manchin.

The moderate Manchin, D-W.Va., has spent months forcing Democrats to trim the 10-year, \$2 trillion package, at times citing rising inflation as a reason to slow work on the bill. On Friday, the Labor Department said consumer prices grew last month at an annual rate of 6.8%, the highest in 39 years.

Another concern for Manchin is the overall cost of the legislation. On Friday, a separate report from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said that if many temporary spending boosts and tax cuts in the bill were made permanent, it would add \$3 trillion to the price tag, more than doubling the 10-year cost to around \$5 trillion. Democrats called the projections from the Republican-requested report fictitious.

Manchin aides did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Just Thursday, Manchin had said in a brief interview that he wanted to know "where we are in inflation and where we are on the true price" of the bill, adding he was "very concerned."

After months of negotiations, Manchin is still press-



Sen. Joe Manchin has spent months forcing Democrats to trim their \$2 trillion package, citing inflation. CAROLYN KASTER/AP

ing for cuts in a bill that originally had an estimated \$3.5 trillion cost. By pointing directly at Manchin's expressed concerns, Friday's reports underscored his crucial role as Democrats battle to complete a package delivering many of Biden's top domestic goals.

Every Democrat in the 50-50 chamber will have to back the bill so Vice President Kamala Harris can cast a tie-breaking vote to approve it.

The political sensitivity of inflation and its impact on the Democratic bill, a collection of family services, health care and climate change priorities,

was underscored as leaders of both parties tried to spin the numbers to their advan-

Democrats argued that the inflation report intensified the need to approve the bill, which reflects many of Biden's top domestic goals. They said the legislation's spending and tax credits for health care, children's costs, education and other programs would help families cope with rising prices.

Most of the bill is paid for with tax boosts on the wealthy and big corpora-

"For anyone who, like me, is concerned about costs facing American families, passing BBB is the most immediate and direct step we can take to deliver," Biden said in a statement, using the acronym for his bill's formal name, "Build Back Better."

Republicans argued that the legislation's expenditures would further feed inflation, which has been driven by supply chain delays making products less available and spending prompted by a strong underlying economy.

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said that inflation means "the average American has gotten a pay cut," adding, "It is unthinkable that Senate Democrats would try to respond to this inflation report by ramming through another massive socialist spending package in a matter of days. Democrats limited the

duration of many initiatives in their package to help contain the bill's price tag.

That includes extending enhancements to the child tax credit for just one year and free, universal preschool for only six years.

It's an accounting move both parties have used to make their budget plans seem more affordable even though they would like their proposals to be permanent and some may be extended because they are popular. Republicans used such phaseouts robustly for their big tax cuts in 2001 and

"If you believe these programs go away after one, two or three years, you shouldn't have a driver's license," said Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, the top Republican on the Senate Budget Committee, who requested the CBO estimates.

He said the bill's higher price tag and rising inflation meant Democrats' legislation would be "lethal to the economy and lethal to your paycheck.

Democrats said the estimated added \$3 trillion cost was bogus because they would propose savings to pay for any future extensions of their initiatives.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said Republicans were using "fake scores based on mistruths," while House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., called the numbers "a phony score of an imaginary bill."

Outside groups including the nonpartisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget and the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business have produced similar estimates about the legislation's cost if its programs were permanent. CBO numbers usually have more clout in Congress because the agency's impartiality is respected.

Schumer wants to reach final compromises with Manchin and other Democrats on unresolved issues and push the package through his chamber by Christmas. But much about the legislation remains in

Crash of truck smuggling migrants leaves 55 dead

Tractor-trailer jammed, carrying as many as 200

By Manuel De La Cruz and Edgar H. Clemente **Associated Press**

TUXTLA GUTIERREZ, Mexico — Rescue workers arriving at a road accident in southern Mexico found a horrific scene: A tractor-trailer jammed with as many as 200 migrants crashed into the base of a steel pedestrian bridge, killing 55 and injuring dozens.

The migrants inside the tipped-over trailer were tossed and crushed in a pile of both the living and the dead.

In addition to the 55 killed Thursday evening, at least 52 were injured. It was one of the deadliest days for migrants in Mexico since the 2010 massacre of 72 people by the Zetas drug cartel in the northern state of Tamau-

Volunteer rescuers removed the dead from the pile, while the living scrambled to get out of the twisted debris of the collapsed trailer.

One young man, pinned beneath unmoving bodies, wriggled to free the lower half of his frame, his face wrenched into a grimace as he extracted himself.

While the Mexican government is trying to appease the United States by stopping caravans of walking migrants and allowing the reinstatement of the "Remain in Mexico" policy, it has been unable to stanch the flood of migrants stuffed by the hundreds into trucks operated by smugglers who charge thousands of dollars to take them to the U.S. border — trips that all too often lead them only to their deaths.

Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said such cases are pain-

"We have been insisting that the causes that originate these unfortunate events must be addressed," he said at his morning news conference.

Lopez Obrador said he has been insisting to U.S. President Joe Biden that the immigration situation is urgent but the U.S. government is moving slowly.

The most severely injured from the accident were carried to plastic sheets on the road. Those who could walk were led, stunned, to the same sheets. Ambulances, cars and pickup trucks were pressed into ferrying the injured to hospitals.

Later, the dead were covered in white sheets, side by side, on the highway.

Rescue workers said other migrants who had been on the truck when it crashed fled for fear of being detained by immigration agents. One paramedic said some of those who hurried into surrounding neighborhoods were bloodied or bruised but still limped away in their desperation to escape.

About 200 migrants may have been packed into the truck, said Guatemala's top human rights official, Jordan Rodas. That number is not unusual for migrant smuggling operations in Mexico, and the weight of the load - combined with speed and a nearby curve — may have been enough to throw the truck off balance, authorities said.

Luis Manuel Moreno, head of the Chiapas state civil defense office, said about 21 were seriously injured and were taken to hospitals. The federal attorney general's office said three were critically injured in the crash, which happened on a highway leading from the Guatemalan border toward the Chiapas state capital.

Sitting beside the over-



An injured migrant woman is moved by rescue personnel Thursday from the site of an accident near Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas state, Mexico. Mexican authorities say at least 55 were killed. AP

turned trailer, Celso Pacheco of Guatemala said the truck felt like it was speeding and then seemed out of control.

Most aboard were from Guatemala and Honduras, he said, estimating eight to 10 young children among them. He said he was trying to reach the United States but now expects to be deported to Guatemala. Authorities said migrants from Ecuador, the Dominican Republic and Mexico were also aboard.

Guatemalan President Alejandro Giammattei tweeted: "I deeply regret the tragedy in Chiapas state, and I express my solidarity

for the victims' families, to whom we will offer all the necessary consular assistance, including repatriation."

Pope Francis, who visited Chiapas in 2015 and has made the plight of migrants a hallmark of his papacy, sent a telegram of condolences Friday to the archbishop of Tuxtla Gutierrez, offering prayers for the dead and their families, and for the injured.

The truck had originally been a closed freight module of the kind used to carry perishable goods. The container was smashed open by the impact. It was unclear if the driver survived.

Those who spoke to survivors said they told of boarding the truck in Mexico, near the border with Guatemala, and of paying between \$2,500 and \$3,500 to be taken to Mexico's central state of Puebla.

Once there, they would presumably have contracted with another set of smugglers to take them to the U.S. border.

In recent months, Mexican authorities have tried to block migrants from walking in large groups toward the U.S. border, but the clandestine and illicit flow has continued.



A protester holds up a placard defending Julian Assange on Friday in London. NIKLAS HALLE'N/GETTY-AFP

UK court: Assange can be extradited to US

By Megan Specia and Charlie Savage The New York Times

LONDON - A British court ruled Friday that Julian Assange can be extradited to the United States to face espionage charges that could result in decades of jail time, reversing a lower-court decision in the long-running case against the embattled WikiLeaks founder.

The ruling was a victory for the Biden administra-

tion, which has pursued an effort to prosecute Assange begun under the Trump administration.

But Assange will seek to appeal the decision to Britain's Supreme Court, according to his legal team.

The Justice Department's decision to charge Assange under the Espionage Act in connection with obtaining and publishing secret government documents has raised novel First Amendment issues and alarmed advocates of media freedom.

In ruling that Assange can be extradited, the High Court in London said it was satisfied by assurances provided by the Biden administration that it would not hold him under the most austere conditions reserved for high-security prisoners and that, if he were to be convicted, it would let him serve his sentence in his native Australia if he

requested it. An American lawyer for Assange, Barry J. Pollack, denounced the ruling, call-

ing it "disturbing" that the British court accepted the U.S. government's "vague assurances" of humane treatment. Assange fled into the

Ecuadorian Embassy in London in 2012 when he was facing an investigation on allegations of sexual assault in Sweden, which were eventually dropped.

He remained in the embassy for seven years until he was ejected in 2019. He has been detained in London's Belmarsh prison.

Pence: All of my focus is on 2022'

Former VP tries to step out of Trump's shadow in NH trip

By Jill Colvin Associated Press

MANCHESTER, N.H. — There were all the trappings of a day on the presidential campaign trail: a fundraiser, schmoozing with local activists, holiday parties and a visit to a local bakery, where the potential candidate posed for pictures and bought a slice of cake.

But former Vice President Mike Pence insisted his scheduled swing through New Hampshire this week was simply focused on next year's midterms, when control of Congress is at stake.

"To be honest with you, all of my focus is on 2022 because I think we've got a historic opportunity for not just a winning election, but a realignment election," he said Wednesday. "So I'm dedicating all of my energy to the process of really winning back the Congress and winning statehouses in 2022. And then in 2023, we'll look around and we'll go where we're called."

Pence's approach belies the fact that he isn't just any Republican courting the voters and activists in this state that helps decide presidential nominations. He's arguably tied more closely to former President Donald Trump than any other Republican eyeing the White House. While that should be a boon in a party dominated by Trump loyalists, it's a unique vulnerability for Pence, who is blamed by some supporters of the former president who wrongly believe he could have prevented Joe Biden from assuming the presidency in January.

Adding to the complexity is the prospect that Trump may also run again in 2024. At least for now, polls suggest he would run away with the GOP nomination.

That leaves Pence, whose



Former Vice President Mike Pence meets with people Wednesday in Manchester, New Hampshire. CHARLES KRUPA/AP

life was threatened by Trump supporters at the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, in a bind.

Some fellow Republicans considering a campaign, including former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley, have said they won't run if Trump moves forward. Others, such as former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, have dismissed the notion that a Trump candidacy should automatically clear the field.

Pence is opting for a middle ground, spending much of his time talking up his and Trump's time in office and insisting the two parted ways on good terms.

In interviews, for instance, he declined to take a side in the GOP primary for governor in Georgia, which features incumbent Brian Kemp against Trumpbacked challenger and former Sen. David Perdue. He similarly sidestepped the question of what Trump's calculations mean for him.

alculations mean for him. But he's clear that he's not waiting for his old boss to make a decision as he travels the country, delivers speeches and raises money.

"Come 2023, we'll reflect, we'll pray and we'll respond to that calling, whatever that is," he said.

Much of Trump's base remains livid that Pence refused the former president's demand to block certification of the 2020 election — something he did not have power to do. And critics of Trump are unlikely to embrace a man who almost never voiced disagreement with the former president and who continues to yoke himself to that administration.

Still, on Wednesday, Pence was greeted warmly during his second New Hampshire visit since leaving office.

In a speech sponsored by the conservative Heritage Action organization, Pence blamed Biden for the country's soaring inflation and railed against the roughly \$2 trillion social and environmental bill that is being considered in Congress.

"Keep your hands off the American people's paychecks," he demanded.

At the Simply Delicious bakery in Bedford, Pence greeted customers and posed for selfies. The bakery was featured in ads from the Coalition to Protect American Workers, a conservative group run by Pence's former chief of staff, Marc Short, and fined for violating COVID-19 mask regulations.

"We miss you very much," the bakery's owner, Alexa Firman, told Pence as the two chatted and posed for photos.

After four years of playing second fiddle to Trump, Pence's increasingly busy schedule of travel and speeches gives him what aides see as an opportunity to reassert himself as the front man.

But after so much deference, it remains unclear whether Pence can emerge from Trump's shadow and make a compelling case to voters that he should be

the future of a party that has been so dramatically redrawn in the former president's image.

Voters who attended the events generally praised Pence but didn't express the kind of enthusiasm often reserved for Trump.

"I'm personally in favor of any Republican who has Trump's policies without Trump's personal ego," said Fred Yocum, of Brentwood, New Hampshire.

Edie Olson, a lumber building materials supplier from Nashua, said it was too soon for him to have taken stock of the potential field, but he, too, is ready for an alternative to Trump.

"I think it's time for a professional politician once again," he said. "Leave it to the professionals."

Pence, meanwhile, continues to confront the fallout from the insurrection.

He has repeatedly defended his actions, saying he upheld his constitutional duty and had no choice but to count the Electoral College votes.

On Wednesday, he again acknowledged in a radio interview that he and Trump may "never see eye to eye" on what happened that day, when he and his family were forced into hiding as the mob of Trump supporters violently stormed the Capitol building, some chanting "Hang Mike Pence."

At the same time, he told several news outlets "there were irregularities that happened at the state level," even though no evidence has emerged of any serious fraud.

Almost on cue, Trump knocked Pence this week, calling him a "good man," but someone who made a "big mistake on not recognizing the massive voter fraud and irregularities."

Pence has also paid recent visits to other early-voting states such as Iowa, South Carolina and Nevada. He's been writing a book, delivering paid speeches and fundraising on behalf of Republican candidates — making friends and building relationships with donors who could help him down the line.

He's also recording a weekly podcast, "American Freedom," as part of his work with Young America's Foundation, in addition to running his own issues advocacy group, Advancing American Freedom.

Chris Ager, a member of the Republican National Committee from New Hampshire who spent time this week with Pence, said that while the state's primary is more than two years away, election season has begun.

"This is campaign season for 2024. It's already started," he said.

And while some are waiting for Trump to move, others "are doing the smart thing by preparing so they can keep their options open, regardless of what President Trump does," Ager said. "That seems to me like a very savvy thing to do."



the Washington National Cathedral after a funeral service Friday. MANUEL BALCE CENETA/AP

Dole hailed at DC funeral for war sacrifice, Senate service

By Will Weissert and Colleen Long Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Bob Dole was honored Friday at Washington National Cathedral and the World War II monument he helped create as top leaders from both parties saluted the longtime Kansas senator's ability to practice bareknuckle politics without

compromising his civility.
Displaying a bipartisanship rare in modern government, politicians in office and out came together to pay homage to Dole's hard-scrabble rise from wounded war veteran to Senate stalwart to threetime, unsuccessful presidential candidate.

"He could be partisan, and that was fine," said President Joe Biden. "Americans have been partisan since Jefferson and Hamilton squared off in George Washington's Cabinet. But like them, Bob Dole was a patriot."

Joining Biden at the funeral service were members of Congress, Cabinet officials, three Republican former vice presidents and Bill Clinton, who beat Dole to win reelection as president in 1996.

"There's something that connects that past and present, war time and peace, then and now," said Biden, who touched Dole's casket before addressing the service and mentioned their 50 years of friendship. "The courage, the grit, the goodness and the grace of 2nd Lt. Bob Dole, who became Congressman Dole, Senator Dole, statesman, husband, father, friend, colleague and a word that's often overused, but not here - a genuine hero."

Dole, who died Sunday at age 98, was severely wounded during World War II, served nearly 36 years in Congress and was GOP Senate leader for more than a decade.

While calling him a "giant of our time and of all time," Biden said Dole was worried at the end of his life about American democracy being threatened by bitter political battles and had noted that infighting from both parties "grows more unacceptable day by

Still, Democrats and Republicans coming together to praise Dole's ability to put country and public service over ideology was the overriding theme.

Former Republican Kansas Sen. Pat Roberts said Dole used humor as a political tool, delivering deadpan punchlines which helped let "the air out of the partisan balloons." Dole's daughter, Robin, read a letter her father wrote to his staff in which he said "I believe in the future of the United States of America."

After the funeral service, Dole's casket traveled to the World War II Memorial on the National Mall, which opened in 2004 and which Roberts said would not have existed without Dole spending years spearheading the legislation that erected it

Addressing the crowd at the memorial, actor Tom Hanks asked, "How many structures in this city exist but for the efforts of one man?"

"It was Bob Dole who willed this memorial into place," said Hanks, who starred in the World War II drama "Saving Private Rvan"

Dole will eventually be interred at Arlington National Cemetery.

Biden says hard work ahead to strengthen democracies

By Aamer Madhani Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden on Friday wrapped up his two-day democracy summit, an event that was more about starting a global conversation about how best to halt backsliding than producing immediate results or expanding democracy's

reach.

Biden and fellow leaders announced initiatives to stem autocracies from misusing Big Tech to stifle dissent, enhance election integrity, bolster independent media and other modest efforts that the president said would "seed fertile ground for democracies to bloom around the

world."

But the U.S. president also acknowledged the path ahead was difficult for democracies amid a rise of authoritarianism around the globe.

"We know how hard the work is that's going to be ahead of us, but we also know that we are up to the challenge," Biden said in remarks to close the virtual meeting.

Biden pledged the U.S. would spend up to \$424 million in the next year around the world to support independent media, anti-corruption work and more.

The administration

The administration sought to frame the virtual summit — a gathering Biden had made a priority during his first year in office — as a launching point for the more than 100 nations invited to collaborate at a difficult moment for democracies. Biden said he wants to reconvene a follow-up gathering in person next year.

The president has repeatedly made a case that the U.S. and like-minded allies need to show the world that democracies are a far better vehicle for societies than autocracies.



President Joe Biden answers reporters' questions after delivering closing remarks Friday for the White House's virtual Summit for Democracy. **CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY**

It is a central tenet of Biden's foreign policy outlook — one he vowed would be more outward looking than his predecessor Donald Trump's "America First" approach.

But his first year in office has been a period that he says has been marked by a "backward slide" for democracy around the globe.

In recent months, Sudan's prime minister was ousted in a military coup, Cuba tightened control of the internet after some of the biggest protests on the island in years, and Myanmar's military toppled the civilian government and imprisoned leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

Biden has repeatedly taken China and Russia to task for squelching the voices of democratic activists and committing human rights abuses. He avoided direct mention of both nations in interactions with leaders during the summit, but their presences loomed large.

The United States, along with Australia, Denmark and Norway, on Friday announced the launch of a joint effort that aims to stem the misuse of technology by authoritarian powers to stifle dissent and seeks to help develop new tech inno-

vations that support human rights.

The initiative, in part, calls for establishing a voluntary written code of conduct that's meant to guide government and tech companies on human rights criteria for export and licensing policy.

Under the global charter for digital public goods, governments, civil society groups, software engineers and tech companies would declare principles for open source tech products.

"The United States will take greater responsibility for the digital tools we export," U.S. Agency for International Development administrator Samantha Power said. "All too often, technology originates in a hub of innovation like the United States and is exported to countries that use that technology to enable human rights abuses."

The White House also faced scrutiny for whom it invited to the summit.

only 5% of the population of the 111 countries represented live in countries where the right to free speech, right to protest and other core civic rights are fully respected, according to CIVICUS Monitor, a group that monitors civic freedoms.

US consumers see highest inflation rate since 1982

Prices for Americans jumped 6.8% in November compared with a year earlier

By Martin Crutsinger

Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Prices for U.S. consumers jumped 6.8% in November compared with a year earlier as surging costs for food, energy, housing and other items left Americans enduring their highest annual inflation rate in 39 years.

The Labor Department also reported Friday that prices rose 0.8% from October to November — a substantial increase, though slightly less than 0.9% increase from September to October.

Inflation has been inflicting a heavy burden on consumers, especially lowerincome households and particularly for everyday necessities. It has also negated the higher wages many workers have received, complicated the Federal Reserve's plans to reduce its aid for the economy and coincided with flagging public support for President Joe Biden, who has been taking steps to try to ease inflation pressures.

Fueling the inflation has been a mix of factors resulting from the swift rebound from the pandemic recession: A flood of government stimulus, ultra-low rates engineered by the Fed and supply shortages at factories in the U.S. and abroad. Manufacturers have been slowed by heavier-than-expected customer demand, COVID-related shutdowns and overwhelmed ports and freight yards.

Employers, struggling with worker shortages, have also been raising pay, and many of them have boosted prices to offset their higher labor costs, thereby adding to inflation.

The result has been price spikes for goods ranging from food and used vehicles to electronics, household furnishings and rental cars. The average price of a used vehicle rocketed nearly 28% from November 2020 to last month - to a record \$29,011, according to data compiled by Edmunds.com.

The acceleration of prices, which began once the pandemic hit as Americans stuck at home flooded factories with orders for goods, has spread to services, from apartment rents and restaurant meals to medical services and entertainment. Even some retailers that built their businesses around the allure of ultra-low prices have begun boosting them.

Over the past 12 months, the costs paid by a typical American family have surged by roughly \$4,000, according to calculations by Jason Furman, a Harvard economist and former Obama White House aide.

The 6.8% jump in prices for the 12 months that ended in November was the largest year-over-year increase since a 7.1% surge for the year ending in June 1982. That spike occurred at a time when the Federal Reserve had driven up interest rates to double digits in its effort to stem runaway inflation triggered by the oil price shocks of the 1970s.

Driving much of the inflation last month were energy prices, particularly gasoline pump prices, which are up a dizzying 58.1% from a year ago. Core inflation, which excludes volatile food and energy prices, rose 0.5% in November. Some economists are holding out hope that inflation will peak in the coming months and then gradually ease and provide some relief for consumers.



A plane gets set to land near solar panels Dec. 5 at Tallahassee International Airport in Florida. DUSTIN CHAMBERS/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Airports go in on solar farms

Unused land tracts, roofs and garages being transformed to harness renewable energy

By Amy Zipkin The New York Times

When city commissioners in Tallahassee, Florida, passed a resolution in early 2019 to rely exclusively on renewable energy by 2050, one cornerstone was already in place: a 120-acre, 20-megawatt solar farm at Tallahassee International Airport.

The solar arrays had $\bar{b}een$ installed just over a year earlier by a private developer in an effort to combat climate change and curtail emissions. An additional 330 acres producing 42 megawatts came online in late 2019, supplying solar power to more than 100 municipal buildings, including City Hall, the airport terminal and a sewage treatment plant.

"We were thinking we would do less, because land was limited," said Reese Goad, the Tallahassee city manager. "It's difficult to find land in an urban setting." But the airport provided city officials with a parcel of undeveloped land that also allowed for connection to the grid.

As the country considers its carbon foot-

print and alternative energy sources, the nation's airports are turning their unused land, roofs and parking garages into solar farms. Some 20% of public airports have adopted solar power in the last decade, according to a study last year at the University of Colorado.

Despite the interest, challenges still remain: Adoption is limited and varies by location, and officials can encounter environmental and bureaucratic hurdles. But airports are required by law to be financially self-sufficient, and the prospect of earning extra revenue is a powerful draw for governments.

"It's an addition to the power grid, a revenue generator and energy for the airport itself," said Peter Kirsch, a lawyer at Kaplan, Kirsch & Rockwell in Denver whose practice focuses on regulation and transportation infrastructure. "Airports are enormous users of power, and any effort to rely on renewable energy sources in lieu of traditional carbon-based ones will create a positive community reaction."

Community solar programs, which allow some utility customers to buy solar power instead of using traditional fossil fuel, are in place at airports in Tallahassee; Tampa, Florida; and Austin, Texas, among others. At Kennedy International Airport, a planned solar array is expected to be the largest in New York state when it is completed next year. These efforts give renters and those with limited means the ability to shift to

clean energy. Some airports, like San Francisco's, use municipal bonds to finance the installation of solar farms, but most typically enter into a power purchase agreement with a third-party energy provider, which owns and operates an energy system after it is

installed on the airport's property. 'The government incentivizes development of renewable energy, such as solar and wind, through the use of tax credits and accelerated depreciation," said Miriam Wrobel, a senior managing director at FTI Consulting in San Francisco. "Often, public entities such as airports cannot utilize the tax benefits, so third parties own the assets and sell the energy generated to the

Prices are locked for 20 to 25 years, but the owner gets paid only when the energy

The Federal Aviation Administration provides guidance for evaluating solar technology for airports. In May, the agency streamlined its process evaluating glint and glare, allowing airports to evaluate potential impact to a control tower.

Shell gets approval to simplify firm structure

By Danica Kirka Associated Press

LONDON — From now on, just call it

Royal Dutch Shell on Friday received approval from shareholders to simplify its archaic corporate structure, which grew out of the merger more than a century ago of a British firm that once traded in exotic seashells and an oil company in the Neth-

The changes will mean a single headquarters in London and one class of shares. instead of two, which Shell says will create faster payouts to shareholders and boost its shift to renewable energy amid criticism it has been slow to cut carbon emissions.

It comes as management resists pressure from some investors to break up the company into one business focusing on renewable energy and another for legacy fossil fuels.

The tensions illustrate the challenges oil companies face as they pivot from a business model that has generated huge profits and reliable dividend payments toward a more uncertain future tied to wind, solar and biofuels. With returns from the new ventures unknown, investors are demanding quick returns from existing assets, said David Elmes, an energy expert at the U.K.'s Warwick Business School.

Until now, Shell has had two separate classes of shares, one for its Dutch arm and one for its U.K. arm, which together comprised Royal Dutch Shell PLC, one of the world's biggest oil companies.

Shell says its new corporate structure will allow it to accelerate share buybacks. The company has already promised to return \$7 billion to shareholders as it completed the sale of assets in Texas and New Mexico to ConocoPhillips this year.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Monsanto fined \$12M in Hawaii

HONOLULU - The Monsanto agrochemical company said Thursday in court documents that it has agreed to plead guilty to illegally using and storing pesticides in Hawaii and will pay \$12 million in fines.

The court filing said Monsanto agreed to plead guilty to 30 environmental crimes after workers were allowed to go into corn fields last year on Oahu after glufosinate ammonium-based product named Forfeit 280 was sprayed on the fields.

Federal law prohibits people from entering areas where the chemical is sprayed within six days of application.

The company will also plead guilty to two felony crimes related to the storage of a banned chemical on Maui, according to the Department of Justice.

GM selects site for battery plant

DETROIT — General Motors and joint venture partner LG Energy Solution plan to build an electric vehicle battery factory in Lansing, Michigan, which would be their third such factory in the U.S.

The companies' plans were revealed in documents posted on the city's website Friday. They say that the plant will cost up to \$2.5 billion and employ as many as 1,700

The plant would be built on the site of GM's Lansing Delta Township Assembly factory, which has been annexed by the city.

GM has said the joint venture will build four factories to make EV battery cells. Two other locations have been announced, in Spring Hill, Tennessee, and Lordstown, Ohio. The fourth has not been disclosed.

Mercedes recall fixes dashboard video glitch

By Tom Krisher Associated Press

DETROIT — A few days after reports surfaced that Tesla allows drivers to play video games on dashboard touch screens while vehicles are moving, Mercedes-Benz

has issued a U.S. recall for a similar issue. The German automaker said in documents posted Friday by U.S. regulators that the issue affected 227 vehicles and already has been fixed by updating an internal computer server.

But the fact that Mercedes did the recall over concerns about distracted driving, and Tesla has not, raised questions about whether federal auto safety standards are being applied equally by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

"MB is following the regulatory rules as they are supposed to — in sharp contrast to what we've been seeing from Tesla," said Philip Koopman, a professor of electrical and computer engineering at Carnegie Mellon University. If NHTSA doesn't take action against Tesla, the agency will have one standard for Tesla and another for other automakers, Koopman said.

Mercedes said in documents that on some 2021 and 2022 EQS and S model vehicles, drivers could access television programs and the internet while the vehicles are traveling. The automaker said it intended to disable the features while the cars are moving, but the recalled vehicles had an incorrect computer configuration.

"If an occupant were to actively select the function or application while the vehicle is driving, then driver distraction might result, which could increase the risk of a crash," the company wrote in documents. The recalled cars have active and connected "Mercedes me" accounts.

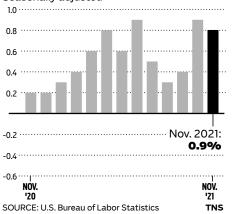
Mercedes wrote that it has no reports of any crashes or injuries from the problem, which was discovered in a company vehicle in Germany.

Last month a Tesla owner near Portland, Oregon, filed a complaint with NHTSA after discovering that while driving, he could play video games and browse the internet on the screen of his 2021 Tesla Model 3. The agency said Thursday that it is communicating with Tesla about the issue.

Consumer Price Index In November, the consumer price index

increased 0.8 percent.

CPI ONE-MONTH PERCENT CHANGE



BUSINESS



Natural gas flares at a facility near Coyanosa, Texas . After hitting their highest levels since 2014, natural gas prices have tumbled recently. **JESSICA LUTZ/THE NEW YORK TIMES 2020**

Sinking natural gas prices a sign of hope for heating bills

By Talmon Joseph Smith The New York Times

After hitting their highest levels since 2014 mere months ago, natural gas prices have tumbled in recent weeks, falling more than 10% Monday alone, a development that could bring much-needed relief to many Americans who had been bracing for high home heating bills this winter.

The latest drop came after the release of updated government weather forecasts projecting warmerthan-expected winter temperatures.

Prices for natural gas traded on the futures market are now back down to levels that prevailed last summer and are down about 41% from their peak in October.

After taking a sharp dive during the height of pandemic lockdowns as the economy slowed, energy and other commodity prices soared this year as the economic recovery accelerated and many goods and raw materials became snarled in tangled global supply chains.

Natural gas, used to heat

almost half of U.S. households, almost doubled in price earlier this fall. Prices remain higher than they were during the depths of the pandemic, at about \$3.75 per thousand cubic feet on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Those prices are up about 50% since January, but are far lower than in late October when they exceeded \$6 per thousand

cubic feet. Natural gas prices recently took a sharper turn down as the weather in much of the country was warmer than expected. Concerns about the supply of gas, which have been a much bigger problem in Europe, have also eased in the United States.

"We've still got January, February, March - but it's certainly a good sign that it's coming down," said Mark Wolfe, executive director of the National **Energy Assistance Direc**tors' Association, a group of state officials that provide assistance to households in need. "If it's a warmer winter, then our estimates about consumption will be down and if consumption is down, that'll reduce the

price of the fuel. It's a good sign."

Even if the winter months are not as cold as on average, other factors, including limited supply and strong demand for gas from power plants and other users, could keep heating costs high, energy experts said.

Conversely, gas prices could drop further if the omicron variant of the coronavirus proves more dangerous than expected, slowing the economy and sapping demand for goods and services.

Good news about energy prices has been uncommon for consumers lately. The broad gauges of inflation have been running at the highest rates in decades. The vagaries of the weather, and climate change, may now cut them at least a temporary break.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Center, above-average temperatures throughout the South and most of the Eastern United States could predominate for most of this winter.

Flood insurance costs up in areas once deemed low risk

By Suman Naishadham and Michael Phillis Associated Press

WASHINGTON - In the past year, the southwestern Louisiana city of Lake Charles weathered two hurricanes, intense rainfall that sent water gushing down streets and a deep freeze that burst pipes.

Yet Tommy Eastman may eventually drop coverage on his four-bedroom home – which has so far escaped damage — because the cost of his flood insurance is going up.

"Once it starts getting over \$1,000, I'm gonna start thinking, 'Well, what am I doing?" said Eastman, a real estate agent whose annual policy is scheduled to climb from \$600 to \$2,500 over the next several years.

Under a revamped federal flood insurance program rolled out this fall, millions of homeowners are set for rate hikes that officials say more accurately reflect a property's risk. That includes the vast majority of the 1.7 million homeowners with relatively cheap policies in areas federal officials previously deemed low or moderate risk — and where coverage is voluntary.

The overhaul is intended in part to make it more expensive to develop in risky areas. But some worry the price hikes will only make it harder to convince homeowners to voluntarily buy or keep flood coverage, particularly in middle- and working-class areas.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency says its new insurance program factors in the characteristics of individual properties, such as how close they are to water, how expensive they are to rebuild and whether they faces multiple types of flood risk. In many parts of the country, such risks are growing as climate change increases the strength of hurricanes and the inten-



Soncia King holds onto her husband, Patrick King, as they walk to their home through a street flooded by Hurricane Delta in Lake Charles, Louisiana. GERALD HERBERT/AP 2020

sity of rainstorms.

The program — Risk Rating 2.0 — will mean higher prices for about three-quarters of the 4.9 million federal flood insurance policies, and decreases for the rest. Voluntary policyholders in single-family homes will be hit particularly hard, with an estimated 90% set for hikes, according to FEMA. The agency said it plans to collect 50% more in premiums under the new program over time.

"We've learned that the old way of looking at risk had lots of gaps, which understated a property's flood risk and communicated a false sense of security," said David Maurstad, a senior executive of the National Flood Insurance Program.

In spite of identifying more flood risk across the country, the new system doesn't change who is required to buy coverage. In areas FEMA deems highest risk - known as the 100-year flood zone — flood insurance is required on government-backed mortgages and many banks also require it for mortgages in high-risk areas. FEMA has said the flood maps aren't meant to predict where flooding may occur, but say where coverage is required

and help communities

make building decisions.

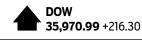
In recent years, homeowners living in places where coverage isn't required have faced losses in the billions of dollars. Between 2017 and 2019, nearly 40% of the flood claims FEMA received were for properties that fell outside zones where insurance is required, an agency representative told Congress last year.

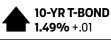
Many properties outside the flood zones face risk 'that has always been there but has never been identified," said Matthew Eby, executive director of First Street Foundation, a research firm that produces detailed maps of flooding

First Street estimates that 14.6 million properties across the U.S. are at substantial risk of flooding, far more than the number of flood policies federal government insures. A Government Accountability Office report this year recommended that the federal government update the rules on who is required to get coverage to protect more high-risk homes from flood disasters. A separate GAO report found FEMA's flood maps do not reflect the latest climate science or key flood hazards such as heavy rainfall.

MARKET RUNDOWN

Saturday, December 11, 2021







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Domestic Indexes							
	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD				
DOW Indus.	35,970.99	+216.30	+17.53%				
DOW Trans.	16,404.67	+77.60	+31.16%				
DOW Util.	935.67	+4.54	+8.22%				
NYSE Comp.	16,856.63	+76.15	+16.05%				
Nasdaq Comp.	15,630.60	+113.23	+21.28%				
S&P 500	4,712.02	+44.57	+25.45%				
S&P 400	2,779.84	+2.52	+20.52%				
Wilshire 5000	47,962.05	+325.93	+21.56%				
Russell 2000	2,211.81	-8.40	+12.00%				

Commodities							
FUELS	CLOSE	PREV.	YTD				
Crude Oil (bbl)	71.67	70.94	+47.71%				
Natural Gas (mm btu)	3.93	3.81	+54.59%				
Unleaded Gas (gal)	2.14	2.13	+50.11%				
METALS	CLOSE	PREV.	YTD				
Gold (oz)	1,782.90	1,774.60	-5.82%				
Silver (oz)	22.16	21.97	-15.84%				
(Previous and change figures reflect current contract.)							

Forei	gn Excl	nange	Money Rates			
	ForEx in U.S. \$	U.S. \$ in ForEx		CLOSE	PREV. WK.	
Britain	1.3257	.7543	Prime rate	3.25	3.25	
Canada	.7856	1.2729	3-mo. T-Bill	0.06	0.06	
China	.1570	6.3699	6-mo. T-Bill	0.13	0.13	
Euro	1.1312	.8841	5-yr T-Note	1.25	1.21	
Japan	.008816	113.43	10-yr T-Note	1.49	1.43	
Mexico	.047816	20.9137	30-yr T-Bond	1.89	1.75	

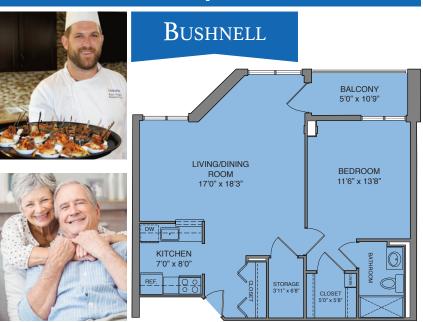
Global Markets								
	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG.	%YTD				
Frankfurt London Hong Kong Nikkei	15,623.31 7,291.78 23,995.72 28,437.77	-15.95 -29.48 -259.14 -287.70	40%	+13.88% +12.87% -11.88% +3.62%				

Stocks of Local Interest

			YTD	,			YTD
STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE		%CHG	STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG
AMC Entertainment A (AMC	•		+1194.3	MGM Resorts Intl (MGM)	41.41	80	+31.4
AT&T Inc (T)	22.84	10	-20.6	Magellan Health Inc (MGLN)		+.12	+14.0
Adv Micro Dev (AMD)	138.55	+.45	+51.1	MetLife Inc (MET)	60.63	25	+29.1
American Airlines Gp (AAL)		13	+14.2	Microsoft Corp (MSFT)	342.54	+9.44	+54.0
Amer Virtual Cloud (AVCT)	2.29 84.27	+.41	-68.2	Novartis AG (NVS)	80.67	+.23	-14.6
Amphenol Corp (APH) Apple Inc (AAPL)	179.45	+1.16 +4.89	+35.2	Nvidia Corporation (NVDA)	301.98	-2.92	+131.3
Ardelyx Inc (ARDX)	1.46	12	-77.4	Oracle Corp (ORCL)	102.63	+13.86	+58.6
Avangrid Inc (AGR)	48.21	12 54	+6.1	Otis Worldwide Corp (OTIS)	86.08	11	+27.4
Bank of America (BAC)	44.52	+.03	+46.9	Palantir Technol (PLTR)	18.94	27	-19.6
Barnes Group (B)	46.10	19	-9.1	Peloton Interactive (PTON)	38.51	-2.19	-74.6
Biofrontera Inc (BFRI)	5.37	+.60	+21.8	Peoples Utd Fncl (PBCT)	17.64	04	+36.4
Booking Holdings (BKNG)	2236.36	-31.25	+.4	Petros Pharmaceutic (PTPI)	2.70	+.34	-38.6
Brist Myr Sab (BMY)	56.36	-1.18	-9.1	Pfizer Inc (PFE)	52.78	+.70	+43.4
CVS Health Corp (CVS)	98.86	+1.55	+44.7	Pitney Bowes (PBI)	6.70	07	+8.8
Carnival Corp (CCL)	19.28	+.09	-11.0	Prudential Fncl (PRU)	107.04	+.51	+37.1
Carrier Global Corp (CARR)	55.51	48	+47.2	Pub Svc Ent Gp (PEG)	63.80	+.06	+9.4
Charter Communic (CHTR)	610.89	-1.08	-7.7	Raytheon Technolog (RTX)	86.16		+20.5
Cigna Corp (CI)	214.94	+3.64	+3.2	Robinhood Markets A (HOOI	0) 20.13	-1.78	-42.2
Cisco Syst (CSCO)	59.25	+1.70	+32.4	Rogers Corp (ROG)	271.48	32	+74.8
Citigroup (C)	60.71	-1.43	-1.5	SS&C Technlogies (SSNC)	78.10	+.25	+7.4
CocaCola Co (KO)	56.28	+1.42	+2.6	Sigmatron Intl (SGMA)	14.94	+6.85	+219.2
Comcast Corp A (CMCSA)	48.45	+.64	-7.5	SoFi Technologies (SOFI)	15.01	65	-33.7
Context Therapeutics (CNT		88		Sthwstn Energy (SWN)	5.50	+.17	+84.6
Disney (DIS)	152.71	23	-15.7	Stanley Black & Deck (SWK)		+2.56	+9.0
EMCOR Group Inc (EME) Ethan Allen (ETD)	126.09 25.20	09 +.28	+37.9 +24.7	Starwood Prop Trust (STWD)		25	+27.3
Eversource Energy (ES)	87.88	+.35	+1.6	Sundial Growers Inc (SNDL)	.59	01	+23.6
Ford Motor (F)	21.45	+1.88	+144.0	Terex Corp (TEX)	44.99	72	+28.9
FuelCell Energy (FCEL)	6.93	08	-38.0		1017.03		+44.1
Gen Dynamics (GD)	204.93	+3.00	+37.7	Tilray Inc (TLRY)	8.62	32	+4.4
Gen Electric (GE)	96.95	88	+12.5	Tonix Pharma (TNXP)	.38	02	-43.3
General Motors Co (GM)	63.21	+3.59	+51.8	Travelers Cos (TRV)	154.25	+.76	+9.9
Grab Holdings Ltd A (GRAB)		96	-18.6	Uber Technologies (UBER)	36.67	87	-28.1
Hartford Fn Sv (HIG)	68.15	08	+39.1	United Rentals (URI)	347.81	-8.72	+50.0
Honeywell Intl (HON)	209.81	+3.81	-1.4	United Kental's (OKI) UnitedHealth Group (UNH)	478.23	+4.91	+36.4
Horizon Tech Fin (HRZN)	16.43	+.03	+24.1	Virtus Invest (VRTS)	293.74	83	+35.4
Infosys Ltd (INFY)	23.19	06	+36.8	Voya Financial (VOYA)	63.23	02	+7.5
Intel Corp (INTC)	50.59	+.11	+1.5	Webster Financial (WBS)	54.35	+.17	+28.9
Kaman (KAMN)	41.18	10	-27.9				+66.3
KANZHUN LIMITED ADS (BZ		+2.67	-2.4	Wells Fargo & Co (WFC)	50.20	+.51	
Keycorp (KEY)	23.01	+.02	+40.2		1010.25		+1.0
Kinross Gold (KGC)	5.33	+.06	-27.4	World Wrestling Ent (WWE)	49.12	+.41	+2.2
Lincoln Natl Corp (LNC)	67.47	76	+34.1	XPO Logistics Inc (XPO)	75.72	-3.61	+9.2
Lucid Group Inc (LCID)	37.66	+1.14	+40.4	Xerox Holdings Corp (XRX)	21.15	+.09	-8.8







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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Now, more than ever, heed words of St. Teresa

As I read the headline, "As gun violence spikes, a search for solutions [Page 1, Dec. 5]," I was struck by the irony of "a search for solutions" going on at the same time that many are fighting to keep the right to abortion a law in our land. Abortion is the most violent act there is. As St. Teresa of Calcutta said in 1997 at the national prayer breakfast in Washington, "if we accept that the mother can kill her own child, how can we tell other people not to kill one another?" Wake up people! The safest place for a child should be in their mother's womb — if we don't protect them there, what makes us think we can protect them in their schools?

Marie Pelletier, Broad Brook

Author from Iran knows US better than most

I just read the op-ed by Rojia Afshar "A soon-to-be citizen's plea [Insight, Page 1, Dec. 5]." It should be read by all Americans. Most of us do not appreciate what freedom of speech, thought and religion mean to us — we have taken it for granted. As she says, "Our constitutional rights are promised to all its citizens regardless of creed, color, religion, political affiliation or national origin." Our country is in serious jeopardy. Partisan politics is tearing us apart and making other nations very happy. She also said, "America is truly the last best hope for freedom on earth, and if we don't take a stand to protect it here and now, soon it will be lost."

Rojia was born in Tehran. She came to the U.S. in 2012 and graduated with a law degree from UConn.

Muriel S. Lewis, Canton

No sympathy for power companies, politicians

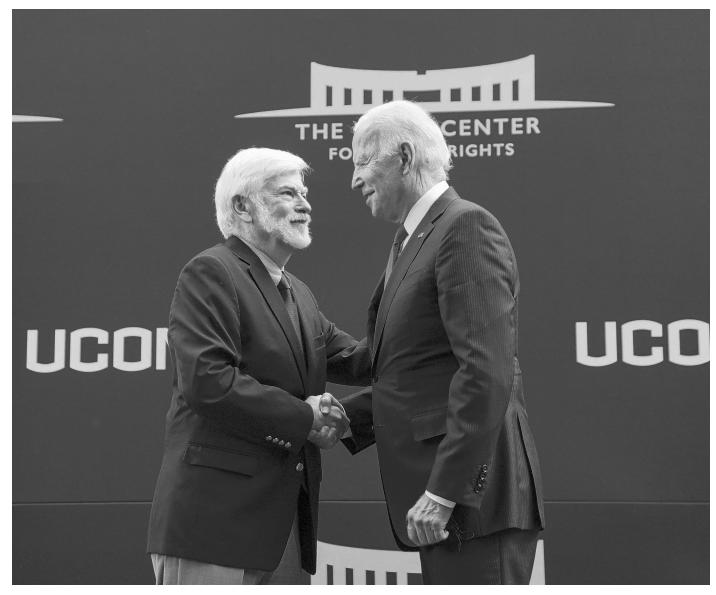
There is nothing more fundamental to modern life than electricity. There simply is no acceptable excuse for not having reliable power [Page 1, Dec. 7, "Power grid faces heightened risk"]. We excoriate the utilities when they have difficulty restoring electrical power after "act-of-god" events of nature. We now need to excoriate the politicians when we have no electrical power due to "act-of-man" events. Just whom do we sue when we have thousands of dollars of expenses because of freeze damage? We need to tell our politicians to do their job, and if they don't, we need to vote in those who can.

Donald E. Lewis, Manchester

Fans shouldn't associate sports with money

Stephen L. Carter in Sunday's Courant [Commentary, Page 3, "Baseball players are not overpaid"] opined that authors and movie actors make 15 times more than ballplayers without drawing the ire. I can agree with that assessment. My only thing is, who cares? They are talented and gifted individuals. If the sky is the limit, so be it. I used to have coffee with a dear friend who was a former sports writer. He said, "Dave, if you want to enjoy sports, forget about the money." These were very freeing words and to this day, I don't associate money with sports.

Think about it. Dave Krinjak, Manchester



Former U.S. Sen. Chris Dodd greets President Joe Biden at UConn earlier this year. EVAN VUCCI/AP

Protecting democracy, securing human rights starts with education

By Christopher J. Dodd

This past week, President Joe Biden marked International Human Rights Day by convening leaders from the private sector, government and civil life to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing our democracy and those around the world. Authoritarianism and threats to democratic institutions are on the rise, and the next generation of civil and elected leaders must be prepared to defend and advance the cause of human rights and free societies.

By hosting the Summit for Democracy, President Biden was reinforcing the return of American global leadership at a time of unprecedented peril. Let this moment also remind us that the most significant resource for renewing democracy and securing human rights is civics

Throughout our friendship, including our time together on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, President Biden has long recognized that democracy and human rights are intertwined and that both require an unflagging commitment to working with partners across the globe to ensure peace and justice for all. As we face the most daunting challenge to democracy in a generation, I know he agrees that we have both the opportunity and the responsibility to create new civics educational approaches that support democracy and advance human rights.

Nine weeks ago, the president spoke on the UConn campus to dedicate the Dodd Center for Human Rights, and sounded the alarm, noting that, "we see human rights and democratic principles increasingly under assault," and calling on our students to "discover and defend human rights as the passion and purpose of our lives."

"We need you," he told students in attendance, "we need you badly."

While the struggle for democracy and human rights will ultimately rest on the shoulders of the rising generation, it is the responsibility of leaders today to equip them with the knowledge, skills and values necessary for this great task. This is the fundamental purpose of the Dodd Center and I am proud that UConn has become a leader in promoting human rights education. Others are doing so, but more of our colleges and universities need to embrace this responsibility to democracy, rather than shy away from the hard work of advancing equity and social justice for fear of political blow-

As important as higher education is, the real hope for our democracy rests within our communities and our K-12 schools. That's why I'm joining Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona in a conversation, hosted by UConn as part of the Summit for Democracy, about how our schools can, through civics and human rights education, become engines of our

democracy. Young people are not just future citizens, they are citizens today and our schools must do more to ensure that they understand their rights and responsibilities in making our democracy work. We must begin by reversing the decadeslong trend of neglecting civics, but must also include new models for empowering students, teachers and families to build cultures of human rights in their schools and communities.

At the Dodd Center, the president connected the global struggle for human rights to our own democratic struggles at home. He echoed one of the authors of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which we celebrate today, Eleanor Roosevelt. "Where, after all, do universal human rights begin?" Mrs. Roosevelt asked. "In small places, close to home." She continued, "Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world." The president's decision to convene this Summit for Democracy will serve as a catalyst to ensuring human rights at the center of our nation's foreign policy. The next step will be to shore up the true foundations of our democracy by placing civics back at the center of our nation's education policy.

Christopher Dodd served as U.S. senator from Connecticut from 1981-2011

The democracy summit's challenge for Biden

By E.J. Dionne Jr. The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The most important thing about President Joe Biden's Summit for Democracy that opened Thursday is that it is happening.

We will see legitimate critiques (and cheap shots, too) about which countries should and should not have been included, how it became a talkathon rather than a forum for action, and which nations including the United States — are being hypocritical about what.

But it matters that Biden has moved a commitment to democracy to the forefront of U.S. foreign policy, no matter how inconsistent our nation might be in applying its principles

The world is far better off than it was a year ago because the default position of the president of the United States is to criticize authoritarians and dictators rather than to praise them; to defend human rights rather than to minimize their importance; and to speak of the imperative for democracies to prove their capacity to govern and solve problems.

Yet this last commitment, to showing that our own democracy works, catches Biden in a mesh of contradictions and

There are two sides to Biden's instinctive worldview that worked reasonably well together a few decades ago but now confront him with stark and unavoidable choices: His yearning for peaceful cooperation and his understanding of the need for Unfortunately for him and the rest of us, the world Biden longs for has collapsed — which is one reason the Summit for Democracy is necessary.

social and political change. He is right that a democracy built on free speech, a free press, freedom of conscience and regular elections requires forms of civic friendship across our lines of disagreement. Words such as "bipartisanship" define the side of Bidenism rooted in a time when our political parties more or less agreed on the basic rules of

the game. They accepted their obligation to what Thomas E. Mann and Norman Ornstein, the shrewd political scientists who are also my friends, called "institutional patriotism." All sides took responsibility for making the mechanisms of self-government work. And they accepted basics we never thought would come into question an agreement to abide by the results of free elections and to condemn those who tried to upend the will of the people through force and violence.

One should not, of course, allow a gauzy nostalgia to blind us to the deep conflicts of the post-World War II era. They were reflected in the fierce labor struggles that followed the war, in McCarthyism in the

1950s, and in the often-violent battles for civil rights and voting rights in the 1960s. But it is honorable that Biden longs for a restoration of the norms of mutual respect and graciousness among opponents.

Unfortunately for him and the rest of us, the world Biden longs for has collapsed - which is one reason the Summit for Democracy is necessary. Trumpism is a species of right-wing authoritarianism that haunts nearly all of the traditional democracies, with autocrats in Russia and China pointing to distemper in democratic nations as a sign of their decay.

The United States is, to put matters charitably, in a very poor position to paint itself as a democratic model. The rest of the world has taken note of Donald Trump's efforts to overturn the 2020 election, the violence of Jan. 6 aimed at preventing a peaceful transition of power, Republican reticence to confront the anti-democratic cancer in their party, and the ongoing efforts to roll back voting rights in many

This means there is no apolitical, nonpartisan approach to advancing democracy and defending it from the threats it now confronts. It means that Biden must fully engage in the Senate battle for voting rights and uncorrupted election administration, including bypassing the filibuster if necessary.

Yes, there is certainly room for cooperation between the democratic left and the democratic right. In fact, the efforts of conservative friends of democracy – abroad as well as in the United States -

are more important now than ever. For if the most prominent threat to democracy during the Cold War came from communism, the central danger now, as in the 1930s, arises from a far-right preaching nationalism, intolerance and strongman

Conservatives thus need to be especially brave in confronting anti-democratic elements on their side and in supporting economic reforms that respond to the anxieties of those left behind — apprehensions anti-democracy politicians exploit.

I don't expect Biden to address all of these challenges, but I hope he doesn't duck them entirely. And I certainly expect him to hit back hard against those who claim that democracy is somehow negotiable or secondary to other problems we confront.

One voice I had looked forward to hearing from this week belonged to Fred Hiatt, the longtime Post editorial page editor who died on Monday. Fred's commitment to democracy and human rights was the through line in all his thinking. What he wrote back in 2009 might serve as the inspiration for this summit:

Every human, no matter how rich or poor, wants and is entitled to a say in his or her government. And very few would willingly accept a delay in enjoying that natural-born right, no matter how well intentioned the reason."

E.J. Dionne writes about politics for The Washington Post.

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WANTED JAZZ & ROCK RECORDS by collector Mike 860-573-8678





L BUY VINTAGE ELECTRONICS OLD TOYS, MILITARY JEWELRY, ADVERTISING WATCHES, MUSCIAL ADVERTISING WATCHES, MUSCIAL INSTRUMENTS, CAMERAS, WATCHES, SIGNS, ART, SPORTS MEMORABILIA, OLD STUFF, ANTIQUES, GUITARS, AMPS, TUBE HI-FI, RECEIVERS, AUDIO EQ, RADIOS, HAM, CB, SAXOPHONES & MANY OTHER OLD ITEMS! CALL 860-707-9350

TAG SALES

Tag Sales & Flea Markets

MIDDLETOWN

ESTATE SALE- 199 Atkins St. Middletown 8am- 3 pm Dec. 10, ANTIQUES- including Furniture, China Household Items, Lawn Care items, Christmas Decorations and MUCH

AT YOUR SERVICE

At Your Service

CALL MARKS AUTO PARTS in East Granby. For more information 860-653-2551



www.courant.com/pets

Dogs



AKC GOLDEN RETRIEVERS English Cream. Females. Ready 12/21.0FA health clearances. Euro-champions



AUSSIEDOODLE PUPPIES

Gorgeous! Smart, loyal, good family pets, hypoallergenic, genetically tested, health guarantee, first shots, dewormed, home raised and well socialized. Call/text for info (413)



IRISH SETTER PUPPIES AKC, \$1000 860-942-2651 Similar to Gol Retrievers. UTD on Shots, Vetted LABRADOODLE 6mo old male pups, shots dewormed vet chkd. \$1200

Call for more info: 860-712-5925

ALWAYS BUYING MACHINIST TOOLBOXES Tools & tooling, contents of machine shops, home workshops & small lathes Call 860-985-5760



ANTIQUES & OLD STUFF WANTED Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Toys, Games, Silver Plated Items, Costume Jewelry, Pottery, Typewriters, Sewing Machines, Clocks, Tools, Xmas, Lanterns, Oil Lamps, Glassware, Knives, Hunting, Fishing, Books. 860-874-8396



BUYING ALL MILITARY ITEMS Vietnam War, Korea, WWII, WWI, Civil War, US German Japanese Uniforms Medals, Patches, Helmets, Clothing, Knives, Photos, Literature, Letters

Bayonets, Swords, Canteens, Muskets Powder Flasks, Flags. 860-874-8396



BUYING PRE1980 Toys, Model Kits, Comic Bks, Baseball Card Posters & Cards, Pennants, Political, Postcards, Beer, Bar, Soda, Oil & Gas Station Cans&Signs, License Plates, Jewelry, Masonic & Fraternal Items, Zippos, I check Bsmnt/Attic. 860-817-4350



PINBALL MACHINES WANTED Looking to buy pinball machines, arcade games or jukeboxes in any condition. Will do all moving. Call or text (860) 986 4055



Business Opportunities

CARPET CLEANING VAN 2002 Ford E250. Truck mounted equipment, 70 gallon solution tank. Retiring. \$12,000. 860-916-9252



Rentals

HARTFORD Recently Remodeled 2BR Condo On Farmington Ave Near Aetna. At Bus Stop. Great Safe Neighborhood. High Ceilings, Wood Floors. Heat/Hot Water Included. Rooftop Patio, Laundry & Storage. No Pets Or Smoking. \$975. Call 860-678-8170

Auto & SUV's

VOLKSWAGEN JETTA SPORTWAGEN 2010 - \$6,700 Car has a mechanical issue 8609181549

Antiques/ Classics

LINCOLN CONTINENTAL 1983 \$5500 Great condition and clean. 49,000 original miles. Blue green color. Best offer considered.

8609166343 PORSCHE 914 1974 - \$2200 Solid Rolling Chassis Call No Txt 860-

Trucks & Vans



DODGE RAM 1500 2002 - \$9700 This truck had a full front-to-back complete service by Stilly's Automotive in Lisbon. 8609181549

Auto / Truck Wanted

CASH PAID - for any Toyota, other makes. Any condition. Running or not, crashed okay. Will take other makes and models. 203-600-4431

Car Reviews

AUSTRALIAN LABRADOODLE



CHIHUAHUA PUPPIES 860-680-2955 teacup female \$1600, will be under 10 pounds, vetted, current



MALTESE Male puppy, 16wks. \$1,600. Vetted. 860-942-2651



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*Merchandise Ads Restrictions Apply

PUBLIC NOTICES

Hartford

Legal Notice Town of Canton Planning & Zoning Commission (PZ Regular Virtual Meeting December 15, 2021 at 7:00 pm ission (PZC)

People can hear the meeting and make comments/questions by calling the following

comments/questions by calling the following number:
Call In: + 1 312 626 6799
Webinar ID: 829 8543 0761
Passcode: 609342
Or view the meeting by using the following

IINK: Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/829854 30761?pwd=Qm1xL2RmeTd00ExveitMSi9x Vlpsdz09

The Canton PZC will hold a public hearing as part of a regular virtual meeting on Wednesday, December 15, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., for the following application:

File 475; Apln 2125; 9 and 15 Albany Turnpike; Assessor Map 32 and 36; Parcel 1010009 and 1010015; Zone: EGDVD; Special Permit, Section 7.5.D.3.5.b., earthwork and grading over 2,000 cubic yards in connection with and clearly essential to other; Special Permit, Section 7.5.E.2., operation of earth material processing, screening or crushing equipment; and Section 7.6., soil erosion and sediment control; proposed grading activities to provide an opportunity to create a gravel access road to the rear of the property line in the future; 9-15 Albany Turnpike, LLC, applicant/owner

Dated at Canton, Connecticut, this 29th day of November 2021

onathan Thiesse, Chairman

Philip Pane, Secretary 12/10/21 and 12/11/21 7103551

Connecticut

LEGAL NOTICE FOR BIDS TOWN OF ROCKY HILL

For: Engineering Services Date: January 11, 2022 Time: 2:00 PM Place: Rocky Hill Public Schools, 761 Old Main Street Suite 231, Rocky Hill, CT The Rocky Hill Public Schools is seeking engineering teams with experience in renovation and construction related to public schools in Connecticut to provide design and engineer-ing services for the preparation of design and construction documents for the school-wide replacement and upgrading of the HVAC system including adding Air Conditioning. A mandatory pre-proposal briefing will take place at Myrtle Stevens School, 322 Orchard Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067 on December 28, 2021 at 8:00 am. Return investigative visits if requested, will be held on Dec 29, 2021 and December 30, 2021 from 8:00

AM until 3:00 PM An RFQ document may be obtained on the

An RFQ document may be obtained on the following website. http://www.rockyhillct.gov/Bids Sealed qualifications/proposal will be accepted up until the date and time noted above. The Town Manager, his/her designee, or Department Head may reject any and all submittals if, in his/her opinion, it is in the best interest of the Town to do so. Equal Opportunity Employer, minority/women owned businesses are encouraged to submit.

For additional information, please contact Ron Lamontagne, Director of Facilities, at (860)-258-7700

Ron Lamontagne
Director of School Facilities 12/11/2021 7103615

> Steve Dale's PFT WORLD Sundays in Smarter Living

Car Reviews MOTORING

Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated:

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property

259 Hartford Tpke Tolland, CT 06084 Wednesday, December 15th, 2021 12:00pm

32 Patrick Tomlinson — Furniture, books,

personal items
235 Carmelo Castro — Household goods, furniture, boxes
278 Justin Lattanzio — Household goods, furniture, boxes
359 Rebecca Kebart — Bedroom set, boxes, bide toxes 533 Nedectar Repair — Bedroom set, boxes, kids toys 588 James Santiago — 2 Storage totes, 2 hampers, couple bags

The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storagetreasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property. 12/4/21, 12/11/21 7099438

STATE OF CONNECTICUT SUPERIOR COURT JUVENILE MATTERS

ORDER OF NOTICE

Notice to John Doe, father of child born on 01/14/2018 to Carmen S. of parts unknown. A petition has been filed seeking Termination of parental rights of the above named in

or parental rights of the above named in minor child(ren).
The petition, whereby the court's decision can affect your parental rights, if any, regarding minor child(ren) will be heard on: 12/23/2021 at 12:00 p.m. at 920 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06106.
Therefore, ORDERED, that notice of the hearing of this petition be given by publishing

hearing of this petition be given by publishing this Order of Notice once, immediately upon receipt, in the Hartford Courant, 285 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06115 a newspaper having a circulation in the town/city of: Hartford, Ct. /s/ Hon. Michael R. Dannehy, 12/7/2021.

Right to Counsel: Upon proof of inability to pay for a lawyer, the court will make sure an attorney is provided to you by the Chief Public Defender. Request for an attorney should be made immediately in person, by mail, or by fax at the court office where your hearing is to be held. 12/11/2021 7102569

> STATE OF CONNECTICUT SUPERIOR COURT JUVENILE MATTERS

ORDER OF NOTICE Notice to John Doe, father of child born on 10/12/2020 to Cassandra D. of parts

A petition has been filed seeking:

Termination of parental rights of the above The petition, whereby the court's decision can affect your parental rights, if any, regarding minor child(ren) will be heard on 1/14/22 at 9:30 AM at Hartford Superior Court, Juvenile Matter, 920 Broad Street,

Therefore, ORDERED, that notice of the hearing of this petition be given by publishing this Order of Notice once, immediately upon receipt in Hartford Courant a news circulation in the town/city having circu Hartford, CT

Judge: Hon, Michael R. Dannehy Signed: 12/6/2021

12/11/21 7103770

Hartford, CT 06106

Right to Counsel: Upon proof of inability to pay for a lawyer, the court will make sure an attorney is provided to you by the Chief Public Defender. Request for an attorney should be made immediately in person, by mail, or by fax at the court office where your hearing is to be held.

Connecticut STATE OF CONNECTICUT SUPERIOR COURT

JUVENILE MATTERS ORDER OF NOTICE

Notice to Chelsea Edgell, mother of child born 11/06/2021 of parts unknown A petition has been filed seeking:
Commitment of minor child(ren) of the above named or vesting of custody and care of said child(ren) of the above named in a lawful, private agency or a suitable and worthy person. The petition, whereby the court's decision can affect your parental rights, if any, regarding minor child(ren) will be heard on 12/30/21 @ 11:30 AM at Hartford Superior Court, Juvenile Matter, 920 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06016
Therefore, ORDERED, that notice of the hearing of this petition be given by publishing this Order of Notice once, immediately upon receipt, in the Hartford Courant, a newspaper having circulation in the town/city of: Hartford, CT
Judge: Hon. Michael R. Dannehy
Date Signed: 12/06/2021

Right to Counsel: Upon proof of inability to pay for a lawyer, the court will make sure an attorney is provided to you by the Chief Public Defender. Request for an attorney should be made immediately in person, by mail, or by fax at the court office where your hearing is to be held. 12/11/2021 7103748

STATE OF CONNECTICUT SUPERIOR COURT JUVENILE MATTERS

ORDER OF NOTICE

Notice to Damien McDonald, father of child born 11/06/2021 to Chelsea E. of parts A petition has been filed seeking: Commitment of minor child(ren) of the above

named or vesting of custody and care of said child(ren) of the above named in a lawful, prichild(ren) of the above named in a lawfui, private agency or a suitable and worthy person. The petition, whereby the court's decision can affect your parental rights, if any, regarding minor child(ren) will be heard on 12/30/21 @ 11:30 AM at Hartford Superior Juvenile Matter, 920 Broad Street Hartford, CT 06016 Therefore, ORDERE ORDERED that notice of the

Therefore, ORDERED, that notice of the hearing of this petition be given by publishing this Order of Notice once, immediately upon receipt, in the Hartford Courant, a newspaper having circulation in the town/city of: Hartford, CT Judge: Hon. Michael R. Dannehy Date Signed: 12/06/2021

Right to Counsel: Upon proof of inability to pay for a lawyer, the court will make sure an attorney is provided to you by the Chief Public Defender. Request for an attorney should be made immediately in person, by mail, or by fax at the court office where your hearing is to be held. 12/11/2021 7103756

Proposals for: Building Improvements, at the Ansonia Early Care and Education Center at 80 Howard Avenue Ansonia, Connecticut 80 Howard Avenue Ansonia, Connecticut, 06401 will be accepted until 12:00 pm on January 6, 2022 at the office of Team Inc. 30 Elizabeth Street, Derby, Connecticut 06418. At which time they will be opened and read. All potential bidders must provide contact information via email to edwrdly@sbcglobal. net prior to the mandatory walk-through scheduled December 18, 2021 at 9:00 am. Copy and paste the following link https://we.tl/t-baGdOQIOfQ to access bid documents via We Transfer.

Proposals are to be mailed or hand delivered Proposals are to be mailed or hand delivered to feam lnc. at the Derby address above. Team lnc. is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer. Minority business enterprises, women business enterprises are encouraged to apply. Team lnc. reserves the right to waive any informality, to reject any or all proposals or any part of any proposals when it is determined to be in their best interest. Team lnc. will not be responsible for any cost involved in the

to be in their best interest. leam inc. will not be responsible for any cost involved in the preparation of the quotation. Questions may be directed to Mr. Edward Leavy at edwirdly@sbcglobal.net 12/11 - 12/17/2021 7104619

STATE OF CONNECTICUT SUPERIOR COURT JUVENILE MATTERS

ORDER OF NOTICE

Notice to Randy Trice father of 18 month old female, born on 06/04/2020, to Vanessa V. of parts unknown

A petition has been filed seeking:

Termination of parental rights of the above named in minor child(ren) The petition, whereby the court's decision can affect your parental rights, if any, regarding minor child(ren) will be heard on 1/6/22 at 2:00 PM at Hartford Superior Court, Juvenile Matter, 920 Broad Street, Hartford, CT

Therefore, ORDERED, that notice of the hearing of this petition be given by publishing this Order of Notice once, immediately upon receipt, in Hartford Courant, a newspaper having circulation in the town/city of:

Judge: Hon. Michael Dannehy Signed: Debra A. Rubert - Clerk Signed: 12/9/2021

Right to Counsel: Upon proof of inability to pay for a lawyer, the court will make sure an attorney is provided to you by the Chief Public Defender. Request for an attorney should be made immediately in person, by mail, or by fax at the court office where your hearing is to be held.

12/11/2021 7103798

NOTICE OF ANNUAL PUBLIC HEARING OF THE CONNECTICUT PORT AUTHORITY

Tuesday December 14, 2021 5:30 P.M. Location: In response to concerns regard-

ing the spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19), and in the interest of the safety and well-being of participants, this meeting will be held remotely by conference call. Public Dial-In Information: Number: 681-999-0297

PIN: 303243#

Pursuant to Section 15-31a(n) of the General Statutes of Connecticut, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the general public that the BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CONNECTICUT PORT AUTHORITY will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on AUTHORITY will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on DECEMBER 14, 2021, commencing at 5:30 RM., to be held remotely via teleconference, accessible using the dial-in information above, for the purpose of evaluating the adequacy of the State's maritime policies, facilities and support for maritime commerce and industry. 12/7 - 12/14/2021 7097064

Courant **HomeFinder**

Real estate transactions and local properties on the market.

Every Friday.

TOWN OF WINDHAM
LEGAL NOTICE
WINDHAM HIGH SCHOOL - RENOVATE AS NEW
355 HIGH STREET, WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT 06226
STATE PROJECT NO. 163-0079 RNV

1. Downes Construction Company, LLC acting as Construction Manager at Risk (CMR) on behalf of the Town of Windham will receive bids electronically in PDF form via
Email on December 23, 2021 AT 2:00 PM EST for the individual bid packages identified in the Contract Documents and as indicated below for the Windham High School Renovate as New project located on 355 High Street, Willimantic, CT.

Bid Description (Set-As/4c*)

DAS Prequalification Required** Pre-Bid Walk-Through Date/Time Package No. 26.2 Photovoltaic (PV) System (Rebid) YES - Electrical or Solar 12/14/2021 - 3:30pm

2. Those bidders on packages denoted with asterisk (*) must be certified by the State of Connecticut Supplier Diversity Program as a Small, Minority or Woman Business Enterprise (S/M/WBE).

3. PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENT — While there is PLA governing this project, the PV system in its entirety including structure, footings and earthwork is excluded from it.

4. BIDDING REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION (RFI) REGARDING THE ABOVE TRADE PACKAGES - All questions regarding bidding procedures, bidding documents and construction procedures are to be directed in RFI form to the Construction Manager Downes Construction Company at windhambid@downesco.com and estimating@downesco.com. All answers will be published by written Addendum. Extension of the RFI deadline may only be revised by written addendum. Questions received verbally will not be answered. The RFI submission deadline is 12/17/2021 at 12 noon EST. RFI submission deadline may be extended by addenda at the CM's discretion.

construction procedures are to be directed in RFI form to the Construction Manager Downes Construction Company at windhambid@downesco.com and estimating@downesco.com. All answers will be published by written Addendum. Extension of the RFI deadline may only be revised by written addendum. Questions received verbally will not be answered. The RFI submission deadline is 12/17/2021 at 12 noon EST. RFI leadline may only be revised by written addendum. Questions received verbally will not be answered. The RFI submission deadline may be extended by addenda at the CM's extended by addenda at the CM's extended will not be answered. The RFI submission deadline may be extended by addenda at the CM's EAR CARLON CONTROL of the Control of Control

OBITUARIES BY TOWN

Avon Herbert B. Hirsch Bloomfield Henry F. Deforge **Bristol** Helen M. Delfino

Bernice Deschaine Phyllis J. Hammell East Granby Mary Jo Round Enfield

Barbara Piazza Lucy C. Scalia Farmington Bernice Deschaine Glastonbury Kenneth W. Dootson Hartford

Helen M. Delfino Mary L. Virtue Marlborough Kenneth W. Dootson Middletown Allen R. Whalen

New Britain Mary I. Occhialini Barbara Piazza Arthur P. Yoaps Newington Charles Kraut, Sr.

Mary I. Occhialini Other Town in CT Raymond Clark Henry C. Laskowski **Plainville** Charles Kraut, Sr.

Robertine Tomcak Rocky Hill Arthur P. Yoaps **South Windsor** Mary Jo Round Waterbury Henry C. Laskowski

West Hartford James M. Gladue Herbert B. Hirsch Marie L. Walsh

Denotes name listing only. Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

OBITUARIES

Occhialini, Mary Ida (Reney)



Mary Ida Reney Occhialini, 99 of Newington, passed away on Sunday, December 5, 2021 She was the beloved wife of the late Antonio Occhialini. Born in 1922, in New Britain, CT, she was the daughter of the late Anthony and Firmina (Fattorini) Reney. In 1941, Mary graduated from New

Britain High School. She was employed at the electrical counter of W. T. Grant Company and then as an inspector at Fafnir Bearing Company. From there, she went on to the Aetna Life and Casualty Company, where she on to the Aetna Life and Casualty Company, where she was trained to be a comptometer operator. Mary met her future husband, Tony, when she arranged for her friend to go on a blind date with him. However, Tony had his eye on Mary, and they were soon married. She became the lynchpin of the family by devoting herself to her husband and raising 5 children, enabling Tony and her brother, Albert, to build the Reno Machine Company together. Mary was well-known for her fabulous pasta sauce which was served for many years at 2:00 every Sunday afternoon. She also cooked for hundreds of small and large parties and charity fundraisers over the years. She was the quintessential matriarch who celebrated all of the strong, independent raisers over the years. She was the quintessential matriarch who celebrated all of the strong, independent women in her family and had a soft spot for all of the men. As her children grew older, Mary began to pursue painting. Many of her lovely paintings adorn the walls of her family members' homes. She also crocheted dozens of beautiful afghans. She enjoyed dancing, playing cards, reading, making puzzles and visiting the casino. Far from the typical Italian grandmother, Mary was a night owl who had a sarcastic wit, an amazing sense of humor, was sharp as a tack and didn't miss a trick. She loved family gatherings and was always ready for a party or an adventure. She loved to travel and was looking forward to her next Girl's Cruise with her daughters and daughters-in-law. Mary is survived by her children: Adorna Carroll, Mark Occhialini and his wife Cinzia, Renée Malinowski and her husband wife Cinzia, Renée Malinowski and her husband Thomas, Sonya Casarotto and her husband Jeffrey, David Occhialini and his wife Jeana, and her niece Maria Teresa "Terri" Conti and her wife Cynthia. She also leaves her grandchildren: Jenna Carroll Abare and her husband Norman, Adam Malinowski and his wife Jennifer, Eric Malinowski and his wife Mallory, Jordan Carroll Gangloff and her husband Scott, Antonio Occhialini and his wife Ashley, Sean Carroll and his wife Christina, Danielle Occhialini and her partner Gregory Diaz, Diva Malinowski Green and her husband Benjamin, Brianna Occhialini and her fiancé Mitchel Graziano, Alexander Casarotto, Athena Casarotto, Austin Occhialini, Michela Casarotto, Braden Occhialini, Cameron Casarotto and Daniel Casarotto. Mary was blessed to have 11 great-grandchildren: Zachary Abare, Natalie, Andrew, Luke and Vivienne Malinowski, Hazel Malinowski, Mark and Declan Occhialini, Emmett and Parker Gangloff, and Jameson Diaz. Mary also leaves her godchildren: Christina Rondina Sideranko, Aldo Zovich and Sandro Quercia. Additionally, Mary is survived by her sister-in-law Maureen Reney, several nieces and nephews, here and in Italy, and many treasured friends. In addition to her husband and her parents, Mary was predeceased by her beloved brother Albert Reney, her daughter-in-law, Pamela Cowles Occhialini and her son-in-law, John Carroll. There will be a Mass of Christian Burial for Mary at 11:30 AM at the Church of the Holy Spirit in Newington. The burial will be held privately at a later date. Relatives and friends are invited to call on Monday, December 13th, from 3:00 to 7:00 PM, at the Duksa Family Funeral Homes at Newington Memorial, 20 Bonair Avenue, Newington. By the request of the family, masks are to be worn to calling hours and to the church. Memorial donations may be made to the Newington Department of Human Services, Newington Town Hall, 131 Cedar Street, Newington, CT 06111 or to the Newington Historical Society & Trust, Inc., 679 Willard Avenue,



Newington, CT 06111. To share a memory with her fam-

ily, please visit us at www.duksa.net.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Round, Mary Jo (Sauerwald)



Mary Jo (Sauerwald) Round, 74, of East Granby, CT passed away December 9, 2021 with her family by her side. She was married to Carlton Round for 46 years. She leaves behind her daughter Jennifer Round, of Boston, MA; her son Jonathan Round, of Simsbury, CT; her daughter Alison Russell and husband

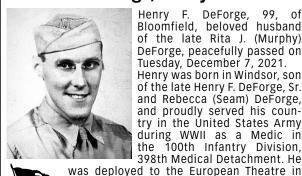
Jesse Russell of Colchester, CT and her granddaughter, Hope Russell. She is also survived by her brother John Sauerwald and family of Brighton, MI; brother Erich Sauerwald and family of Kings Beach, CA and a host of beloved cousins, nieces and nephews. Also surviving Mary Jo is her loyal Australian Shepherd dog, Sunny.

Mary Jo was born to John and Marie Sauerwald October 9, 1947 in Albany, NY. Mary Jo graduated high school from the Academy of the Holy Names in Albany, NY and received a Bachelor of Arts from The College and received a Bachelor of Arts from The College of Mount St. Vincent in the Bronx, NY. A long time resident of South Windsor CT, she retired from the Hartford Insurance Company in 2004 where she was an employee for over 30 years. She was a loving and dedicated mother and wife, a good friend to many and a super competitive Scrabble player who didn't like to

A memorial service for Mary Jo will be held in April 2022. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Father Peter G. Young Jr Foundation in Schenectady, NY.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

DeForge, Henry F.



Henry F. DeForge, Bloomfield, beloved husband of the late Rita J. (Murphy) DeForge, peacefully passed on Tuesday, December 7, 2021. Henry was born in Windsor, son of the late Henry F. DeForge, Sr. and Rebecca (Seam) DeForge, and proudly served his country in the United States Army during WWII as a Medic in the 100th Infantry Division, 398th Medical Detachment. He

France and, while serving, was awarded the Purple Heart for injuries sustained in Battle and the Silver Star for saving the life of a fellow soldier during a fierce battle in Bitche, France. Henry was an active member of American Legion, Post # 59, VFW 4740, and the Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 12, in Hartford. He attended over 20 WWII reunions and participated in all the Veteran's Day parades and ceremonies. He took his service to América seriously and was a great patriot. Henry worked many jobs in support of his family, most recently at the MDC facility in Hartford, retiring after many years of service. Henry was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, brother, uncle, and dear friend. He will truly be missed and fondly remembered as a man who was caring and giving and loved his family more than anything. He leaves a legacy of beautiful memories that will live on in the hearts of those who loved him.

Henry was the family patriarch, hardworking, and family focused. He loved attending all the family picnics, birthdays, graduations, weddings, baptisms, and any other function that brought his family together, especially if the occasion was for his grandchildren. On birthdays and Christmas, you always received a card. He loved dogs, and was never without one, sometimes two or three. Henry was a quiet man with a heart of gold and a deep love of family and friends. He loved to take things apart that were broken and repair them no matter how old they were and loved being outside working in the yard and on house repair projects. His presence, wry humor, and "project managerial feedback" given from him if they were at the house helping, will be greatly missed.

He leaves behind to cherish his memory, three daughters, Mary L'ecuyer and her children, Rebecca and Mathew; Rosemary Yeomans and her husband Scott, and their children, Amy, and Christopher and his wife Amanda; and Nancy Routhier and her children, Timothy Schoenborn and his wife Kathryn, and Stacie Lee and her husband Ryan, and Ashley Routhier; three sons, Thomas E. DeForge and his wife Bonnie of Bloomfield, and their son, David DeForge and his wife Tanya of Manchester; Robert DeForge of Enfield; and John J. DeForge of Bloomfield; his grandchildren, Lora Colson, Kim Sorant, and Renee Didomenico, all of Windsor Locks; 14 great grandchildren; his brother, Joseph DeForge of Winter Haven Florida; Carol and Jim Longley and their daughter Kirsten, who he considered very He leaves behind to cherish his memory, three daughand their daughter Kirsten, who he considered very close family members; and other relatives and friends. In addition to his parents and wife, Rita, Henry was predeceased by three sons, 1st Lt. David H. DeForge, US Army, Pvt. 1st Class Kenneth A DeForge, USMC, and Henry DeForge, Jr.; his grandson, Thomas E. DeForge, Jr.; and his siblings, Rose Johnson and husband Fredrick, Yvonne Attardi and husband Sam, Alice Duperault, Stella Fleury and husband Patrick, Beatrice Faulkner, and Edward DeForge and wife Lillian.

His family will receive friends on Tuesday, December 14, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., with a Prayer Service at 1 p.m., at Carmon Funeral Home, 807 Bloomfield Ave., Windsor. Burial, with Military Honors, will follow in Mountain View Cemetery, Bloomfield.

To leave a condolence for his family, please visit www. carmonfuneralhome.com.



Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Hammell, Phyllis Joan (Cifone)



Phyllis Joan (Cifone) Hammell, of Durham, wife of the late Robert W. Hammell, passed Wednesday, December 8, 2021. Born July 23, 1933 in Bristol, she was the daughter of the late Anne (Lass) Michael and Cifone.

longtime was Phyllis resident of Durham and Higganum. Prior to her retire-

ment, she worked as secretary in the Regional District 13 school system of Durham and Middlefield, and as a temporary office worker for many years. She was a member of the Durham Sixty Plus Club and the AARP of Durham/Middlefield. Phyllis was a former member of Notre Dame Church of Durham and a current member of Saint Lawrence Church.

Phyllis leaves four wonderful children, daughter, Deborah and son-in-law Douglas Woina of Terryville, son Robert M. Hammell and daughter-in-law Teri of Killingworth, son Gregory Hammell and daughterin-law Rebecca of Higganum and daughter Tracy and son-in-law Gordon Murphy of Killingworth; twelve loving grandchildren, Stephanie, Molly, Alison, Regan, Madeline, Griffin, Garrett, Grace, Jessica, Christopher, Nicholas, and Emily; nine great grandchildren, Tori, James, Jr., Hollis, Elliot, Finn, Kaiden, Rhett, Cash and Logan, two brothers, Allan Greenier of New Haven and Peter Baldwin of Virginia; sisters-in-law, Ellen Cifone of Terryville, Kathryn Finnegan and Betty Hammell of Pennsylvania, and several nieces and nephews.

Along with her parents and husband, Phyllis was predeceased by a brother, Michael Cifone.

Family and friends may call on Monday, December 13th from 5:00 to 7:00 pm at the Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church Street, Middletown where masks are required.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Tuesday, December 14th at 10:00 am at Saint Lawrence Church, 7 Hemlock Drive, Killingworth where masks are required. Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations in Phyllis's memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, 111 Founders Plaza, Second Floor, East Hartford, CT 06108. To share memories or send condolences to the family, please visit www. doolittlefuneralservice.com.

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Virtue, Mary Louise

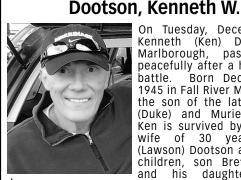


Mary Louise Virtue, 84 years old, of Hartford, CT, passed away on Saturday, December 4, 2021. Mary was born in Jamaica, West Indies on September 10, 1937, to the late Oscar and Isabel Hylton. She leaves to cherish her memories children, grandchildren, siblings and a host of other relatives and friends. At the convenience of fam-

ily services will be private. Interment will be held at Mount Saint Benedict Cemetery, 1 Cottage Grove Road, Bloomfield, CT 06002. To leave a message of comfort for the Virtue family and view the full obituary please visit, www.hkhfuneralservices.com



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OBITUARIES

On Tuesday, December 7th, Kenneth (Ќen) Dootson of Marlborough, passed away peacefully after a hard fought battle. Born December 21, 1945 in Fall River MA, Ken was the son of the late Clarence (Duke) and Muriel Dootson. Ken is survived by his loving wife of 30 years, Karen (Lawson) Dootson and his two children, son Brett Dootson and his daughter Kendra

Dootson whom he loved dearly.

Ken will also be sadly missed by his siblings - Maureen (Alan) Máynard, Wayne (Shirley) Dootson and JoAnn (Lyman) Desso and his in-laws -Bertha Lawson, Lynné (Jeff) Norris, Sandra (Drew) Ebdon and Russ Lawson. Ken also leaves behind numerous nieces and nephews that he enjoyed spending time with. He was predeceased by his brother Robert Dootson.

Ken was raised in Mansfield and graduated from E.O. Smith High School. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy following high school and upon his return from the military, Ken attended Manchester Community College and the University of Connecticut. He had a long and successful career in the field of computer science working at Brand-Rex, Konica, Ames and Computer Science Corp/ General Dynamics Information Technology.

Ken had a passion and competitive nature and excelled at all things sports – playing on multiple teams throughout his days in high school and beyond. He competed in numerous marathons and road races and completed the Cape Cod Ironman. He also enjoyed being a coach and mentor and could be found coaching kids in midget football and then coaching his son's and daughter's teams throughout their playing days which he so deeply enjoyed.

Ken loved being around family and friends and had so many wonderful times and memories. His annual fishing trip to the beach with college friends, summer vacations at the Cape, Memorial Day weekends at Nantucket - Figawi, winters at Okemo Mountain and the many good times at Lake Alexander.

The family would like to express their sincere and heartfelt gratitude for all of the support, guidance and love given to Ken and his family.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, December 17, 2021 at 11:00 am at Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury. Burial will be at the convenience of the family. Friends may call on Friday, December 17, 2021 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Angioma Alliance at Angioma.org or the Marlborough CT Volunteer Fire Department. For online condolences, please visit www.mulryanfh.com



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Laskowski, Henry Casimer



Henry Casimer Laskowski age 81, of Blacksburg passed away Wednesday, December 8, 2021, at Lewis Hospital-Montgomery. Gale was born in Waterbury, CT. on December 21, 1939 to the late Casimer P. And Helen H. Laskowski. He was also preceded in death by a sister, Barbara Sullivan. He retired from Eversource-Energy with

Hank was a loyal member of Polish Falcons of America- Nest #307 of Southington, CT. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Christine Lagosz Laskowski, daughter and son-in-law, Kathleen Laskowski and George T. Davis, son and daughter-inlaw, Philip A. and Heather Laskowski, grandsons, Alexander and Zachary Davis, sister and brother-in-law, Pauline and Robert Ouellette. A memorial mass will be conducted Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at 11:00 am in the St. Mary's Catholic Church with the Father John Asare officiating. The family will receive friends from 10-11:00 am Tuesday morning at the church. Arrangements by McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg.

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Piazza, Barbara (Carroll)



Barbara (Carroll) Piazza, 91, of Enfield, wife of the late Salvatore Piazza, passed away Thursday (December 9, 2021) at Parkway Pavilion in Enfield. A native and lifelong New Britain resident, she lived in Enfield since 2018. Barbara was a cafeteria worker in Hartford and later worked at the Dunkin Donuts on the Berlin Turnpike in Newington

until her retirement. She was a member of St. Francis of Assisi Church in New Britain. Surviving are two sons, Thomas Piazza and his

wife Melody of Southington, and Brian Piazza and his wife Kathy of New Britain; two daughters, Lisa Piazza and her longtime partner Brian Blazis of Enfield, and Marlene Armento and her husband Alexander of Cape Coral, FL; a sister, Nancy Albert of Killingworth; a sister-in-law, Dolly Genovese and her husband Sam of Vernon; three grandchildren, Samantha Moore of Port St. Lucie, FL, James Piazza of Mesa, AZ, and Morgan DePompeis and her husband Ronald of Milford, CT; two great granddaughters, Miana Gomez and Stella DePompeis as well as and eagerly awaited set of twins. She also leaves several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Funeral services are Wednesday (December 15) 10 AM at Carlson Funeral Home, 45 Franklin Square, New Britain. Burial will follow in Fairview Cemetery, Calling hours are Wednesday morning from 9 to 10 AM at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis TN 38105. Please share a memory or note of sympathy at www.carlsonfuneralhome.com.

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OBITUARIES

Share memories, express condolences, and celebrate

on courant.com.

life in the obituary section

Hirsch, Herbert Bernard

Herbert Bernard Hirsch died at the age of 85 on December 8, 2021. He was first and foremost a good man with a big heart. His many friends and large extended family loved and respected him, and appreciated his wit, generous spirit and sense of adventure. He was a successful businessman; a Navy veteran; an avid golfer, skier and tennis player; a wonderful father and a gifted storyteller. Herb was pre-deceased by his wife Ilana Hirsch, and is survived by his daughters Suzanne Grocki (Tom), Jessica Hirsch Lynn (Tom), Elizabeth Ward (Andrew) and Emily Hirsch (Mark Grant), grandchildren Jake, Sarah, Samara, Jonah, Jeremy, Nathan and Cate.

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Walsh, Marie Lyons



Marie Lyons Walsh, left the world peacefully on December 5th, 2021 to join her husband Bob, her parents Jeremiah and Catherine Lyons, her sister Kay Mangan, her brother Jerry Lyons, and her son-in-law Kevin Kelly, in heaven. Marie, known to most as "Nana"/Nina is survived by her four children, Robby Walsh (Mary Jo McDonough), Lisa Howard (Joe), Jim Walsh (Suzanne), and Nancy Walsh; as well as her seventeen grandchildren, Mimi Walsh, Ben Walsh (Jenna Crevier), Tessa Schmidt (John), Alex Walsh, Mac Walsh, Lisa Sloat (Jeff), Katie Cobb (Steve); Madeline, Eloise, George and Lydia Howard, Hannah Flynn (Austin), McGuire (Nick Calitri), Bailey, Delaney, Atticus and Casey Kelly and nine great-grandchildren with two on the way! Our mom was the fun mom, rich in traditions she taught us to celebrate everything even the little things! If Mom was part of the party, you knew dancing, singing, loud laughter and games would be involved. She loved being a grandmother and was proud loud laughter and games would be involved. She loved being a grandmother and was proud of each and every grandchild. Her iPhone kept her connected to family, she mastered texting and followed all her loved ones on social media. She was a proud owner of Walsh Brother's & Sisters Insurance and Travel Agency with her husband Bob. She found joy in planning honeymoons and

vacations for her clients. While she had been to many beautiful places around the world in the end her favorite place to be was wherever her family was. Our mom lit up a room with her beauty but more importantly with her positive attitude, smile, and laugh. A special thank you to the Duncaster/Caleb Hitchcock community of many aides, nurses and general staff that cared for her and treated her with grace and dignity. Family and friends are invited to celebrate her life on Monday, December 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM at St. Patrick - St. Anthony Church, 285 Church Street, Hartford. Burial is private. There are no calling hours. Directions, online expressions of sympathy and live stream link can be found at www.molloyfuneralhome.com. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to The Ron Foley Foundation (Fighting Pancreatic Cancer) 1000 Farmington Avenue, Suite 108A, West Hartford, CT 06107 or online https://ronsrun.org/donation-options Rest easy, Mom. You were loved. XOXO

> Molloy Huneral Home 906 FARMINGTON AVENUE WEST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06119

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Yoaps, Arthur P.



Arthur "Art" Yoaps, 70, of Rocky Hill, passed away on Wednesday, December 8, 2021 at Maple View Manor.

Art was born in New Britain to the late Adolph and Mary (Kasulis) Yoaps. He is survived by his wife Dale, several cousins, and a niece and nephew. He was predeceased by his brother, Peter.

He was a graduate of New Britain High School and the University of Hartford. Art was employed in public service for the most of his career, starting with the State of Connecticut Highway Department, City of New Britain Public Works, Town of Wethersfield Engineering Department and retired from the Quinnipiac Valley Health District in North Haven.

Art was a life-long member of St. Andrew Church/ Holy Apostles Parish in New Britain, and was a member of the Knights of Columbus and the Connecticut Environmental Health Association. The family wishes to thank Art's care team at Maple View Manor for all their support.

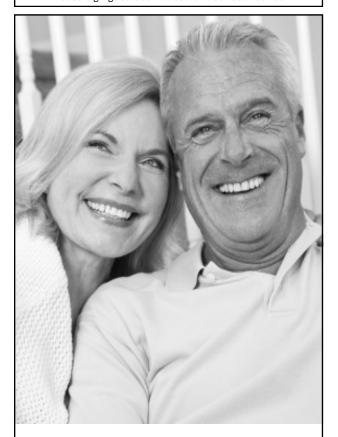
Private funeral services will be held for family members. Burial will follow in Fairview Cemetery, New Britain.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the charity of your choice.

ERICKSON-HANSEN

New Britain

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Delfino, Helen M. (Downarich)

Helen M. (Downarich) Delfino, 99, of Bristol, passed away on Wednesday, December 8, 2021. Helen was born on January 16, 1922 in Hartford, daughter of the late Fabian and Anna (Winarski) Downarich. Helen was the loving wife of the late Vito Delfino for 58 years before his passing in 2007. In her younger years, Helen enjoyed volunteering at the Bristol Hospital, school libraries and St. Matthew Church, where she was a member of the Ladies Guild. She was an avid reader, enjoyed crossword puzzles and was a devoted mother. Helen is survived by her daughters Marianne Delfino of Bristol, Pamela Delfino and her husband John Rhoades of Winsted; grandchildren Timothy and his wife Lauren and Nicholas; two great-grandchildren and several nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews and great-great nephew. Besides her parents and husband, Helen is predeceased by two brothers, Francis and Walter and a sister Regina Moskey. Calling hours will be held on Monday, December 13, 2021 at O'Brien Funeral Home, 24 Lincoln Ave., Bristol, from 8:30 AM until a procession that will leave for St. Matthew Church, 120 Church Ave., Bristol, for an 11AM Mass of Christian Burial. Burial will follow at St. Joseph Cemetery, Bristol. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Hole in the Wall Gang, 555 Long Wharf Drive New Haven, CT 06511. To leave an online message of condolence, share a memory or a photo, please visit Helen's tribute page at www.OBrien-FuneralHome.com



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IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory Of **MARILYN CALIFANO**

It has been 10 years since your passing and you are still very much missed. You may not be with us anymore but you are always with us in our hearts. Love, Louis, Susan, Billy, Michael, Lauren, Tyler, Steven and Leah

In Loving Memory Of HENRY R PODOLAK



August 1, 1933 – December 11, 2020 We can't believe a year has passed since we said good-bye. Although you are no longer with us, you are forever in our thoughts and memories. We know you are watching over us, and you are missed every day! Much love from all your family, Betty, Laura, David, Matt & Timmy

In Loving Memory Of PHILIP A. TOSTARELLI **December 11, 1958**

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SUCH A MAN WAS SEEKING; his name was "Zacchaeus, who was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich. And HE SOUGHT TO SEE JESUS..." (Luke 19:2-3). His status, his riches, his friends could not answer his need of Life and could not answer his life's need.



THE SOLUTION IS IN A PERSON, the Person being THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. To the sinner seeking the Savior, God says: "Ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when YE SHALL SEARCH FOR ME WITH ALL YOUR HEART" (Jeremiah 29:13). *Wise men still seek Him.*

SUCH A SAVIOR IS SEEKING SINNERS. Jesus said, "The Son of Man is come TO SEEK and TO SAVE that which was LOST" (Luke 19:10). God was willing to pay the necessary price to rescue the **perishing ones:** "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him **SHOULD NOT PERISH**, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

ARE YOU AN HONEST SEEKER? "And in the morning, It will be foul weather today: for the sky is red and lowering. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times? A wicked and adulterous generation SEEKETH after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed" (Matthew 16:3-4). "When Thou saidst, SEEK ye My Face; my heart said unto Thee, Thy face, LORD, will I SEEK" (Psalm 27:8). Do you really expect to by-pass God and God's Word and find the truth? Jesus Christ is seeking you. Are you really seeking Him? He invites you to come and rely upon HIS WORD and HIS ABILITY to SAVE and to KEEP you.

"Search THE SCRIPTURES; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify OF ME"(John 5:39). "And Jesus said unto them, I am the BREAD OF LIFE: he that **COMETH** to ME shall never hunger; and he that BELIEVETH on ME shall never thirst" (John 6:35). "But WITHOUT FAITH it is impossible to please HIM: for he that **COMETH TO GOD** MUST BELIEVE that HE IS, and that he is a rewarder of **them that diligently seek Him**" (Hebrews 11:6). "SEEK ye the LORD while HE may be found, call ye upon HIM while HE is near" (Isaiah 55:6).

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CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

Nine more omicron cases reported

Hospitalizations have nearly tripled since end of October as weekly positivity rate climbs to 6.19%

By Alex Putterman Hartford Courant

As Connecticut's COVID-19 numbers continue to spike, and nine new cases of the omicron variant identified Friday, Gov. Ned Lamont said he has no plans for a new statewide mask mandate such as the one announced Friday by New York Gov. Kathy Hochul.

Instead, Lamont touted a "digital health card" he plans to unveil in the coming weeks, which would let local businesses easily identify who is and isn't vaccinated and set rules accordingly.

"What I want to do is get that digital health card [and] make it available to every single business, restaurant, store," the governor said. "Let them make the right decision in terms of allowing people into their facility. Letting them have the information [that] if a person's unvaccinated, they've got to wear a mask. I don't think we need more mandates than that."

Cases and positivity rate: Connecticut reported 3,280 new COVID-19 cases Friday out of 53,948 tests, for a daily positivity rate of 6.08%. The state's seven-day positivity rate now stands at 6.19%, its highest level since mid-January.

The 3,280 cases Connecticut

reported Friday were its most in a single day since Jan. 13. The state's seven day average of new cases stands at 2,021, highest since late

The nine additional cases of the omicron variant reported Friday bring the state's total to 11. Researchers say the new strain is considerably more transmissible than the delta variant, which remains dominant in Connecticut for now.

All eight Connecticut counties as well as the rest of those in the Northeast region — are currently recording "high" levels of COVID-19 transmission as defined by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. With this level of transmission, the CDC advises people to wear a mask in public indoor settings.

Hospitalizations: As of Wednesday, Connecticut has 585 patients hospitalized with COVID-19, up nine from Thursday and the most

Turn to Virus, Page 2



Beef tendon is served at Chef Jiang, a new Chinese restaurant on South East Road in Farmington. MARK MIRKO PHOTOS/HARTFORD COURANT

A taste of tradition

Chef Jiang brings authentic Chinese dishes to Farmington

By Susan Dunne Hartford Courant

overs of Chinese food who want to be more adventurous than their local takeout place will find many unusual dishes at Chef Jiang, which softopened on Nov. 10 at 1600 South East Road in Farmington.

The dishes may be new to Americans, that is, who are accustomed to Americanized Chinese food. Chef Jiang's food is authentic Chinese. In an affirmation that Chef Jiang is doing it right, 90 percent of the customers so far have been Chinese, said the restaurant's manager, Wei Lin.

"The only way to know if you like it is to try it," Lin said of the restaurant's Szechaun-Hunan

Alongside Chef Jiang's more familiar offerings are two dishes made with frog; appetizers of beef tendon, tripe, jellyfish, pig ears and chicken gizzard; a casserole of monopteros albus eel; main dishes of squid and escargot; and fish head in a spicy red pepper

Then there's the wonderfully named "Fire Palace Stinky Tofu." "Have you ever heard of a durian? It's a fruit that smells terrible but tastes really good. Stinky Tofu is

Turn to Jiang, Page 2



Tofu in a skillet over flame is on the menu at Chef Jiang, as well as unusual items such as frog, squid, tripe and other traditional dishes.

Another Hartford officer attacked

Woman tries to stab detective, police say, in second recent incident

By Christine Dempsey Hartford Courant

A woman tried to stab a Hartford detective this week, police say, in the second such attack on a Hartford officer in two months.

Surveillance video shows a woman police identify as Sheila Calderon walking, then running, toward three officers talking on Taylor Drive on Tuesday. With an outstretched arm and a large knife in her hand, she tried to stab the detective in the head and neck, police said.

The detective was a fraction of a second away from being stabbed when he was able to get out of the way while flinging the woman to the ground. She was injured — as was he — but the injuries were minor, police said.

Calderon, 40, who lives on the street, was charged with criminal attempt to commit murder, criminal attempt to commit first-degree assault and criminal attempt to commit assault on a police offi-

"This is another unprovoked attack on our officers where it is clear the perpetrator was intent on killing a police officer," said Chief Jason Thody, referring to recent incident during which a city officer came under fire for no apparent reason. "This behavior is outrageous and totally unacceptable in any context, but is particularly egregious given the fact that the police were not interacting with her in any way and she attacked them for no reason other than them being police officers."

The near-stabbing happened shortly before 10:10 p.m. Tuesday. The officers, members of the Hartford Police Regional Auto Theft Task Force, were at 32 Taylor Drive in the North

Turn to Officer, Page 2

Lamont taps Braswell for next comptroller

- Wei Lin, restaurant manager at Chef Jiang

"The only way to know if you like it is to try it."

Will make history as first Black person in the job

By Mark Pazniokas CT Mirror

Natalie Braswell, a former high-ranking official in the office of the comptroller, is Gov. Ned Lamont's choice to complete the term of Comptroller Kevin P. Lembo, who is resigning at year's end due to a serious heart condi-

This is a bittersweet transition from Team Lembo to Team Braswell," said Lamont, at a news conference in the lobby of the State Office Building.

Braswell was the general counsel and assistant comptroller for a decade, departing at the end of February to become the chief of legal, planning and regula-tory affairs at the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

She will be the first Black person to become comptroller,

one of the state's six elected statewide constitutional offices. Calling herself a public servant, not a public figure, Braswell will not seek a full four-year term in 2022.

"I'm honored and humbled to be appointed to finish up the term of Comptroller Kevin Lembo," Braswell said. "I want to thank Kevin, first of all, for his leadership, for his friendship, and for setting an example for all of us of what a good public servant is."

Lamont had said earlier this week that he would pick a caretaker successor willing to complete Lembo's term and not use the appointment as a head start on running next year.

In doing so, he would be following the example set by Gov. William A. O'Neill, who chose caretakers to fill vacancies for secretary of the state, treasurer

and attorney general. "I think Gov. O'Neill was a



Natalie Braswell, former general counsel and assistant comptroller, is Gov. Ned Lamont's choice to complete the term of Comptroller Kevin P. Lembo. CT MIRROR

pretty wise man," Lamont said. On Friday, Lamont said his intent was to provide stable, experienced leadership to the job and "give an open shot to folks that want to

compete for the job." Braswell said she never considered seeking a full term.

Turn to Braswell, Page 2

DOT wants your help to name its snowplows

Vermont has 'Frosty's Demise,' 'Plowy McPlowface'

By Seamus McAvoy

Hartford Courant

For the first time, the Connecticut Department of Transportation is holding a "Name the Snowplow Contest" to bring at least four of its 634 snowplows out from the shadows of anonymity.

The contest, announced on the department's Twitter account, is open to all residents. Google "ctdot" and go the Connecticut Department of Transportation website to find the contest webpage and enter your name, town and a contact, and enter in a name.

The winners will be inscribed onto the sides of the plows. It's unclear how names will be

decided, or by whom. The plan to name four plows, which represent the four

construction and maintenance

districts the department operates

in Connecticut, is decidedly more modest than that in Vermont, which in November chose names for 163 plows across the state.

The Vermont Agency of Transportation limited its electorate to the most creative name-smiths: schoolchildren. Highlights include "Obi-Wan KenSNOWbi," "Mr. Pushy," "Snowy Chicken" and the charmingly ominous "Frosty's Demise."

And of course, a naming contest of that size would be remiss not to include a reference to "Boaty McBoatface," which the internet infamously voted as the name of a \$287 million British polar research vessel (now the RRS Sir David Attenborough). Students from the Bridge School in Middlebury obliged, choosing "Plowy McPlowFace."

Visit any of CTDOT's social feeds for more information and to find the link to vote.

As inflation hits 39-year high, a search for ways to cope

By Stephen Singer Hartford Courant

MANCHESTER - Prices jumped 6.8% in November from a year earlier, bringing inflation to its highest level in 39 years, squeezing consumers and small-business owners and sounding alarms for Democrats preparing for 2022 politics.

The Labor Department reported Friday that costs are the highest since 1982 and are surging for food, energy, housing, cars and clothing.

Prices have increased due to several factors resulting from the rebound from the pandemic-caused recession, including government stimulus, historically low interest rates set by the Federal Reserve and supply shortages at factories as manufacturers are slowed by heavier-than-expected customer demand, COVID-related shutdowns and clogged ports and freight yards.

"I know how to stretch things," Valerie Roche, a retired cook at Foxwoods Resort Casino, said Friday as she finished shopping at Stop & Shop in Manchester. "I buy cheaper meats."

Potatoes can be frozen, large roasts can be sliced and stored and to save on gas she'll leave her car at home and take dial-a-ride,

Roche also has noticed shortages, particularly of cat food: When you find it, you've got to

Fred Carstensen, a professor of finance and economics at the University of Connecticut, said he believes inflation is "transitory," though Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell recently told Congress he would "retire that

"Working out of it is going to take a little longer," Carstensen

With inflation tame for decades, its sudden re-emergence is a shock to those not used to it, he said.

"A lot of people are not accustomed to seeing this pricing," Carstensen said. "They're hyper-sensitive and have a lack of historical awareness."

A key factor driving up prices is rising demand for goods as consumers seek to get out of the pandemic-enforced restrictions while supplies fail to keep up because of shipping bottlenecks.

"We've been in lockdown two years virtually," Carstensen said. "It's been brutal. People so much want to get back out."

Kimberly Moster, owner of Kimberly Boutique, a women's clothing store in West Hartford, said consumer demand is up, with shoppers "out and about."

"I would say more people are out and haven't shopped in so long. They don't want to wear their old clothing," she said.

Sales are up over last year, but it's an easy comparison because COVID-19 leveled retail in 2020.

"If you're not over last year you're in trouble," she said.

For her business, Inflation so far has been "pretty minimal," Moster said. Shipping costs for heavier items made of porcelain and glass are "substantially higher," but they account for a small portion of her business, she said. Clothing, which is light, has not forced higher shipping costs, and garment prices are negotiated six months in advance and would not be noticed until the spring, Moster says.

Economic costs cut both ways, affecting employees and their

Kathleen Archer of Bloomfield,

who works part-time in advertising, drives a lot for her job and is only partly reimbursed for mileage to compensate for gas, now costing about \$3.50 a gallon. But she recently received a \$2-an-hour pay raise after less than a year with her employer.

"There are so many jobs, that they must be competitive," she said as she was about to post display ads at a Manchester Stop & Shop.

Employee compensation lags behind the corrosive impact of rising prices, rising 3.7% in the 12 months that ended Sept. 30, according to the U.S. Department

If inflation persists into next year, Democrats could be forced to defend their economic policies and spending plans costing trillions of dollars. Gary Rose, a politics professor at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, called it a "very legitimate issue."

"The Republicans will capitalize on it," he said.

The GOP will still have an uphill fight in a deep blue state, Rose said. "It takes a lot here in Connecticut to stage an upset, even with gas prices soaring," he said.

Sen. Richard Blumenthal,

two-term Democratic U.S. senator who will seek re-election next year. said there are few indications the economy is "broadly overheating."

Still, he said, he's advocated for tapping the strategic oil reserve to push down gasoline prices. And, he said, more can be done to break up bottlenecks in ports and other supply chain areas. He also said federal investigators should probe price gouging and manipulation by energy and gasoline producers.

Blumenthal defended the Build Back Better plan advanced by President Joe Biden and Democrats. The expansive program intended to broaden the social safety net would cut health care costs, particularly for prescription drugs, and child care and lower taxes for the middle class, he said.

"Opponents of Build Back Better ignore the clear cost-cutting effects," he said,

The effects of inflation may be more visceral than political.

"Voters themselves don't have to be economists or experts," Rose said. "If it affects their wallets, that's what matters."

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State offering grants to increase bottle, can redemption centers

By Jesse Leavenworth Hartford Courant

Before the deposit on returnable cans and bottles in Connecticut doubles to 10 cents and the types of redeemable containers expands, the state is offering grants to foster more redemption centers in cities and other underserved areas.

The state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection program is meant to establish more return facilities in urban centers and environmental justice communities. Awards of up to \$150,000 for each redemption center must be used for infrastructure and initial operating expenses, among other

Preference will be given to locally owned and minority- and womenowned businesses and first-time redemption center owners, DEEP officials said. Municipalities and regional government councils also are eligible to apply.

The deposit on beer, soda and other drink containers – 5 cents for more than 40 years — will increase to 10 cents on Jan. 1, 2024. Also, the types of containers covered by the state's bottle bill are to expand on Jan. 1, 2023 to cover juices, teas, coffees and sports drinks, among other types.

Doubling the deposit, lawmakers have said, will boost purchas-

ers' incentive to return containers and cut down on litter and environmental harm. The two states that now have 10-cent deposits, Michigan and Oregon, have much higher redemption rates than Connecticut, where only 50% of bottles and cans are redeemed. The other half end up on roadsides, in the trash or in curbside recycling bins.

We are seeing the worst redemption rate of any bottle-bill state in the nation," Sen. Christine Cohen, co-chairwoman of the legislature's environment committee, said in June. "We certainly have a trash crisis in the state of Connecticut, and it's all at the cost of our environment."

'Connecticut's bottle bill program is a powerful tool for reducing litter and promoting recycling in our state, and the key to its success is in providing convenient access to redemption for everyone in our state," DEEP Commissioner Katie Dykes said.

The grant program, Dykes said, will not only help us meet our environmental goals, but also advance business development opportunities for members of under-served communities."

According to the DEEP website, "Redemption Centers are private businesses that work with distributors of carbonated beverages to redeem bottles and cans with a deposit value. Although consumers can bring these bottles to retail outlets (stores must take back the brands that they offer for sale), many groups that collect large quantities of cans/bottles for fundraising activities will bring their collected items to a redemption

On another front in the battle against litter, the state established a 5-cent surcharge on the miniature liquor bottles known as nippers, beginning Oct. 1. The little plastic and glass bottles are not subject to the bottle bill and cannot be redeemed. Rather, wholesalers remit collected fees to municipalities every April, and municipal officials are urged to spend the money on reducing the impact of litter.

Applications for the redemption center grant program will be accepted from Jan. 1 to May 30. Applicants should consider proximity to existing redemption centers and other proposed new redemption centers; safe pedestrian access; proximity to public transportation; population density surrounding the site; and volume of beverage containers sold in the

For more information, visit portal.ct.gov/DEEP.

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Braswell

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"Anyone that knows me knows that I don't have an interest in running for public office," Braswell said. "As I said before, I consider myself to be a public servant."

Braswell, Lamont and Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz were effusive in praising Lembo, 58, whose election in 2010 made him one of the few openly gay elected officials in the United States holding statewide office. He opened an exploratory committee for a possible run for the open gubernatorial seat in 2018 but pivoted to a reelection campaign.

Lembo was not at the news conference.

"I've talked to him several times over the last couple of days," Braswell said. "It's a hard transition. I think it's especially hard for him, because it's not the way he envisioned leaving the office.

Braswell's appointment is not subject to legislative confirmation. Had the legislature been in session when Lembo offered his resignation, his successor would have been elected by the General

Braswell holds bachelor's, master's and law degrees from the University of Connecticut. She is the former vice president of the George W. Crawford Black Bar Association, the Black Law Students Association, and a former member of the UConn

Law School Foundation Board.

The office of comptroller has a relatively low profile. It is responsible for paying the bills and administering payroll and benefits. Lembo has characterized the office as a fiscal guardian. One of his innovations was to create Open Checkbook, an online portal into state spending, contracting and salaries.

Lamont's general counsel. Nora R. Dannehy, had advised that no member of the General Assembly can be appointed to the elective office, the same prohibition that applies to all executive or judiciary branch jobs.

No one has created a candidate committee to run for comptroller. Rep. Sean Scanlon, D-Guilford, who has long been considered a likely candidate if Lembo did not seek a fourth term, said Friday he will make a decision after the holidays about running.

"I love the legislature and being the executive of a growing airport, but the opportunity to serve our state at a higher level and continue the work I've done with Kevin is something I am seriously considering," Scanlon

All six statewide constitutional offices are on the ballot next year. Lembo and Secretary of the State Denise Merrill are the only two who announced they are not running. Lamont and Bysiewicz have opened their reelection campaigns. Attorney General William Tong and Treasurer Shawn Wooden are expected to follow.

Officer

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End, where a stolen car they had recovered was being towed from the street. They were clearly identifiable as police officers, Thody said.

The surveillance video captured the woman walking toward and then sprinting toward the three officers, thrusting her hand with the knife toward the detective.

"They either heard her coming or got a glimpse of her coming," Thody said.

The detective appeared to step out of the way while grabbing her and flinging her to the street, where she landed with a loud thud. The knife's blade measured about four inches.

The woman continued to fight police, who struggled to get her under control. She bit one detective's shoe, Thody said.

Calderon was taken to the hospital after the attack, he said. The detective had some scrapes from the struggle. She wasn't involved with the

stolen car, and the detective she targeted doesn't know her, Lt. Aaron Boisvert said. Thody told reporters at an

afternoon news conference that she may have been under the influence of drugs. Thody said he was impressed

by the speed of the detective's response to the attack. "If you look at the video, I am literally awestruck at how fast the officer reacted."

But he's disappointed police in his department came under attack twice in recent months.

On Oct. 26, a Hartford officer came under fire by a pedestrian she was trying to help, police

The officer, who was parked in a Main Street parking lot at 1:30 a.m., called an ambulance for the man, who she suspected was intoxicated or in need of medical help. Without provocation, police said, the man drew a gun and fired through the driver's side window of the police car, narrowly missing her.

Police arrested Jose Cajigas, who police said also is a person of interest in a recent homicide in the city. Police didn't release the name of either officer who was attacked.

"I'm concerned that this is the second time this happened in an extremely short amount of time," Thody said. "I call on everyone to denounce this kind of activity."

Hartford Officer Jill Kidik nearly died after being stabbed in the neck on the job on May 17, 2018. She had responded to a property damage report at a downtown apartment building when resident Chevoughn Augustin grabbed a knife and repeatedly stabbed her.

Kidik took a disability retirement in 2019, and Augustin was committed in August to Whiting Forensic Hospital for 38 years.

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 $Chef Jiang, a new restaurant in Farmington, offers traditional Chinese \ dishes. \textbf{MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT}$

Jiang

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like that. It smells awful, but it's delicious," Lin said. The dish gets its pungent aroma, and its flavor, from long fermentation in brine.

Another tofu dish, Chiba Tofu, is extremely firm, thin-sliced and smoky, brought to the table still cooking in a griddle atop a brazier. Other griddle dishes are beef, pork, frog, chicken, mushroom and fish. Tilapia and sea bass are deliv-

ered whole-body, draped across a rectangular chafing dish, smothered in a spicy sauce. Tilapia is also served in an aromatic broth with pickled vegetables, or in a chili oil marinade.

The xiaolongbao dumplings made with chicken, pork or crab come out of the dough with a copious squirt of spicy sauce.

Johnson Jiang of West Hartford is the chef at the new restaurant. He grew up in Hunan, where he went to culinary school.

Chef Jiang, at 1600 South East Road in Farmington, is open 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday to Thursday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday. Find more info at chefjiang.com.

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Virus

from Page 1

at a time since Feb. 16.

Hospitalizations have now nearly tripled since the end of October.

According to the state, 76.9% of people hospitalized with COVID-19 are unvaccinated. Hospital officials say the rate is even higher when looking specifically at people with severe symptoms.

Deaths: Connecticut reports COVID-19 deaths on Thursdays. This week, the state recorded 37 deaths, bringing its total during the pandemic to 8,946.

As COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations have surged in Connecticut over recent weeks, deaths

have risen slightly but still remain far below the levels recorded last

The United States has now recorded 795,298 deaths related to COVID-19, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University.

Vaccinations: As of Wednesday, 85.5% of all Connecticut resi-

dents and 95% of those 12 and older had received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, while 73.1% of all residents and 82.9% of those 12 and older were fully vaccinated, according to the CDC.

Additionally, about 30.8% of fully vaccinated Connecticut residents 18 or older have received a booster

The CDC warns that booster

shots are sometimes misclassified as first doses, likely inflating the reported number of first-dose coverage and understating the true number of people who have received boosters.

Courant staff writer Daniela Altimari contributed to this report. Alex Putterman can be reached at aputterman@courant.com.

Hospitals took major hit during pandemic

According to a new report, health care systems statewide saw a 93% decline over last fiscal year

Associated Press

Hospitals and health care systems across the state took a major revenue hit during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic but most have managed to remain profitable, according to a new report from the Connecticut Office of Health Strategy.

The total statewide gain in operating revenue for Connecticut hospitals was nearly \$41 million over the recent federal fiscal year, which ended

That's a 93% decline compared to the operating revenue gains from the prior fiscal year.

"Statewide, the financial perfor-

mance of Connecticut's hospitals and health care systems was substantially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic," said OHS Executive Director Vicki Veltri, in a statement. "The significant drop in utilization of elective inpatient and outpatient services, as hospitals worked to intervene and treat residents during the height of the pandemic, is also reflected in a significant drop in facility fee revenue at nearly all

Net patient revenue at hospitals statewide, which was approximately \$11.9 billion and accounted for 87% of operating revenues, decreased by \$474 million over the prior year due to lower patient activity because of COVID-19, the report said.

Meanwhile, operating expenses at Connecticut's hospitals increased by 8.7% to \$13.6 billion, compared to the previous year. That was attributed to increases in salaries, wages, benefits and other expenses.

Veltri said the hospitals and health care systems did benefit from more than \$1 billion in federal COVID-19 relief funds. And despite the pandemic, she said "most hospitals retain significant net assets."

The majority of hospitals and three-quarters of health care systems ended the federal fiscal year with a profit "due in part to the strong performance of the financial markets," she said.

Police exhume body in '13 killing

Victim was found buried in Bridgeport garage crawl space

By Christine Dempsey Hartford Courant

A day after making two arrests in an 8-year-old unsolved murder, Bridgeport police have exhumed the body of the person they believe is the

Police hope a Friday autopsy will prove the remains belong to Aryndel Castro, who disappeared in 2013. They said they found the body Thursday afternoon, buried under five feet of dirt in a crawl space under a city

Police said they have "strong evidence" the body belongs to Castro. They arrested two suspects Wednesday — one of whom acknowledged his involvement and agreed to help detectives recover the remains.

That suspect, Shawn Gibson, 45, of Lakeview Avenue in Hamden, made the admission in a post-arrest interview, police said. He was arrested Wednesday afternoon and his alleged accomplice, Terrance Boyd, 55, of Columbia, S.C., was arrested Wednesday morning in South Carolina.

Gibson was charged with murder and is in custody on \$250,000 bail, police said. Boyd also will be charged with murder after he is extradited to Connecticut.

Police said they believe Gibson, with help from Boyd, beat and choked Castro to death on Sept. 22, 2013 in a rooming house at 941 Noble Ave. They found the remains under the detached garage of a nearby single-family house at 1803 Noble Ave.

"The evidence also suggests that the two men then engaged in an elaborate clean-up effort, purchasing cleaning supplies on multiple occasions at The Home Depot and renting vans twice, once from The Home Depot, and the other from U-Haul," police said.

Investigators suspect the men used the vans to move Castro's body more than once in the days after the homicide, police said.

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Fired health dept. spokesman settles lawsuit against state

By Daniela Altimari Hartford Courant

The former spokesman for the state Department of Public Health who was fired during the pandemic has settled his legal action against the state.

Av Harris filed a lawsuit after he was fired last year. He said his dismissal was retaliation for questioning the legality of an order that he obtain police information about a sports bar that Department of Public Health officials had planned to cite for a COVID-related violation.

The lawsuit was dismissed in October and the state agreed to pay Harris \$44,600 in exchange for his agreement not to file an appeal. The agreement, which was first obtained by the CT Examiner through a Freedom of Information Act request, also credits him with five extra months of employment, which qualifies him for state retiree health benefits.

The agreement bars Harris from discussing the details of his legal claim. In a statement posted on LinkedIn and provided by one of his lawyers, Irene Bassock of Empower Legal Group, he said he considers the matter closed.

"Both sides have agreed to strict confidentiality regarding this settlement," Harris said. "I am happy to have this matter resolved so I can turn the page and move on. I thank my attorneys,



Av Harris, former communications director at the state Department of Public Health, shown with Gov. Ned Lamont, has settled his lawsuit against the state after he was fired last year. COURTESY

Irene Magish Bassock and Rick Hayber, for their able, determined, and strong legal representation. I am grateful to the Department of Public Health and Gov. (Ned) Lamont's administration for working with us to find a fair and just resolution to this case."

Under the terms of the agreement, the state denies any unlaw-

The "payment of the aforementioned sum is not intended to constitute ... an admission of liability" by the state, according to the agreement, which was negotiated by lawyers in state Attorney General William Tong's office.

Harris, who was making

\$110,000 a year in the health department job, had been one of the highest-profile press aides in state and city government over the past decade. He handled press duties for statewide elected officials, for Bridgeport Mayor Joe Ganim from 2015 to early 2019, and since then for DPH.

Harris has recently taken a new position as spokesman for the Concord Coalition, a nonpartisan group dedicated to educating the public about the long-term implications of federal budget deficits and the national debt.

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Torrington man faces fed kidnap charge

Allegedly sexually assaulted, tried to take girl, 16, into Canada

By Jesse Leavenworth Hartford Courant

A Torrington man will be moved back to Connecticut from Vermont to face a federal charge that he kidnapped a girl and tried to take her into Canada.

Christopher Constanzo, 19, attended a hearing Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Vermont, where he had been in custody since Dec. 2. Assistant U.S. attorneys in Vermont and Connecticut agreed that a kidnapping charge will be prosecuted in Connecticut and the current Vermont case will be dismissed. The charge carries a mandatory minimum term of 25 years in prison and a maximum of life behind bars.

Parents of the 16-year-old girl who was with Constanzo when he was refused entry into Canada Thursday morning had reported her missing Wednesday night. The girl told investigators she met Constanzo through a mutual friend. She said she went with him voluntarily on Wednesday night, but that he sexually assaulted her at Stillwater Pond State Park in Torrington at about 9 p.m. and then forced her into the trunk of a Toyota Camry registered to her mother, keeping her there until about 4 a.m. on Thursday, the federal affidavit says.

At some point in the night, the girl told authorities, Constanzo removed her from the trunk and raped her again, but she could not tell where they were, the affidavit

During the trip, Constanzo used the girl's cellphone, sending messages pretending to be her, federal officials said. As they approached the border crossing at Highgate Springs, Vermont, Constanzo told the girl to "act normal" and "go along with the story," the affidavit says.

He told Canadian border officials at the Saint-Armand Philipsburg crossing that the girl was his sister and they planned to visit friends in Canada and stay for about four days, U.S. officials said, but Canadian officials denied Constanzo and the girl entry because neither had proof of COVID tests.

Federal officials say Constanzo also is a suspect in a sexual assault case in Torrington from July of this

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Stamford man allegedly tried to lure minors to Vermont ski house for sex

By Jesse Leavenworth Hartford Courant

A Connecticut man persuaded a woman to bring her daughter to his Vermont ski house so he could "train' the girl in sexual subservience, federal authorities said after his arrest Friday.

John Griffin, 44, of Stamford, also tried to lure other minors for the same purpose, authorities said. Griffin faces three counts of using a facility of interstate commerce to attempt to entice minors to engage in unlawful sexual activity. He appeared by video from the lockup in federal court in New Haven. Advised of his rights, Griffin did not enter a plea and was held pending a detention hearing in Vermont.

From April to July 2020, Griffin used the messaging applications Kik and Google Hangouts to communicate with people purporting to be parents of minor daughters, federal authorities said. Griffin wrote that a "woman is a woman regardless of her age," authorities said. He sought to persuade parents to let him train their daughters to be sexually submissive, according to the indictment.

In June 2020, Griffin advised the mother of two minor daughters that she had to ensure one daughter was "trained properly," federal officials said. Griffin later transferred over \$3,000 to the Nevada woman for plane tickets so she and her 9-year-old daughter could fly to Boston's Logan airport. Griffin picked them up in his red Tesla Model X in July and drove them to his Ludlow, Vermont house, where the indictment says the daughter was "directed to engage in, and did engage in,

unlawful sexual activity? Griffin tried to entice two other children over the internet to engage in sexual activity, officials said. In April 2020, he proposed a "virtual training session" over a video chat that would include him instructing a woman and her 14-year-old daughter at his direction, according to the indictment.

old daughter that she take a "little mother-daughter trip" to the Ludlow ski house for sexual training, authorities said. Griffin faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in prison on each count. Also, the federal

In June 2020, Griffin proposed to

the purported mother of a 16-year-

government intends to seek forfeiture of his Ludlow house, his Tesla, a Mercedes and other property that was used in the commission of the charged offenses, authorities said.

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Online shopping scams flourishing during holidays, authorities say

By Jesse Leavenworth Hartford Courant

A shift toward online shopping during COVID-19, the global supply chain crisis and a resurging economy have combined to create a frantic shopping season and a wide pool of victims for online scammers.

Fraud targeting cybershoppers has been growing for several years, but online rip-offs have skyrocketed during the pandemic and social media ads are playing a key role in the mushrooming problem, according to federal authorities and the Better Business Bureau.

The Federal Trade Commission reported a surge in reports from people who say they lost money to a scam that started on social media, including a spike in the spring of 2020 at the height of the pandemic. Complaints about scams that started on social media more than tripled between 2019-20, the agency reported. Shop-

pers lost more than \$117 million to scammers in just the first six months of last year compared to \$134 million for all of 2019, the agency reported.

Most online fraud reports involved a response to ads on Facebook and Instagram. Consumers report rip-offs ranging from sales of nonexistent vehicles, pets and products to counterfeit goods to costly free trial offers. Scammers often take product photos or pages from legitimate businesses, post them on Facebook and Instagram and take online orders at websites they create. This leads to complaints against legitimate businesses, as victims often do not realize they have lost money to a scammer rather than the business the scammer was portraying.

But counterfeit and pirated goods, the subject of a 2019 BBB investigative study, are rampant in online shopping scams, according to the organization.

"Fraudsters understand how

Facebook targets shoppers and have developed strategies to reach those likely to be interested in buying their bogus products," according to a BBB news release.

Credit cards and PayPal offer some protection by allowing buyers to dispute charges, although scam victims have reported difficulty getting refunds through PayPal. In addition, scammers employ a variety of tactics to circumvent the dispute process, including exorbitant shipping costs to return items for a refund, supplying bogus shipping tracking numbers, and delaying the process in order to run out the clock for a dispute claim, according to the BBB news release.

Counterfeit goods operations, and those who sell goods online that are not delivered or send items significantly different from what was described have been tracked to businesses and organized gangs based in China. Vehicle scams have been traced to gangs from Romania and freetrial offer scams have been found to be operated mostly by people in the U.S. and Canada, the BBB reported.

Law enforcement actions mostly have been limited to scammers and their accomplices operating in the U.S. and Canada. In 2020, U.S. customs agencies seized \$1.3 billion in counterfeit goods, arresting 203 individuals and securing 98 convictions.

Avoid online purchase scams

- Scamadviser.com can often tell you how long a website has been in operation. Scammers create and close websites regularly, so a site that has only been operating for a short time could raise red flags.
- Do an internet search with the company name and the word "scam." This may locate other complaints about the site.

■ Scrutinize reviews: Scammers frequently post positive reviews on their websites, either copied from honest sites or created by scammers. Look at the bad reviews first. These are more likely to be real and can help identify scams.

Search for contact information: Use caution if the site does not have a U.S. or Canadian phone number, or uses a Gmail or Yahoo business email address.

■ Keep a record of what you ordered: Make a note of the website where you ordered goods. Take a screenshot of the item ordered, in case the website disappears or you receive an item that differs from what was advertised.

■ Pay by credit card: Credit cards often provide more protection against fraud than other payment methods.

See the BBB study at bit. ly/31NnK4c.

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CELEBRITIES

Rodrigo will return to Disney series

From news services

Grammy-nominated pop musician Olivia Rodrigo will be returning for the third season of "High School Musical: The Musical: The Series," the hit Disney+TV show that made her a star in 2019.

Rodrigo, who was announced Thursday as Time's Entertainer of the Year, will return for one more season of the show, the magazine reported, and possibly continue acting beyond that. Disney did not respond immediately to a request for confirmation.

"Songwriting is the thing I take most seriously in my life," Rodrigo told Time. "It's the most personally gratifying too."

Rodrigo, 18, had showcased those skills on "HSMTMTS" before breaking out in January with the single "Drivers License." Her debut studio album, "Sour," cemented her place in pop music and recently scored a Grammy nomination for album of the year. The teen pop sensation is nominated for seven Grammys in total.

"I'd be lying if I said there wasn't any pressure," she said. "But I sometimes remember: This happened 10 months ago. You don't have to have it all figured out yet."

On "High School Musical," Rodrigo plays Nini Salazar-Roberts, an underdog theater kid who books the lead role of Gabriella Montez in her high school production of the titular show-within-a-show.

After her blockbuster year, many fans wondered if Rodrigo would choose to leave the series and prioritize her music career.

"High School Musical" will begin production on season three in January, a few months before Rodrigo's world tour kicks off.

Singer Tavares dies: Ralph Tavares, the eldest of the



Olivia Rodrigo, seen Dec. 4, stars in "High School Musical: The Musical: The Series." JORDAN STRAUSS/INVISION

five brothers in the Grammy-winning R&B singing group Tavares, whose hits included "It Only Takes a Minute" and "Heaven Must Be Missing an Angel," has died. He died at his Massachusetts home Wednesday, two days before his 80th birthday, the group's manager David Oriola said. The cause was not immediately clear.

The brothers, sons of immigrants from Cape Verde, began performing together in 1959, settling on the name Tavares in 1973, the same year they had their first hit, "Check It Out."

Universal movies will go to **Peacock faster:** Streaming service Peacock may get a boost from movies made by its corporate sibling, movie studio Universal Pictures. Starting next year, the majority of movies from Universal Films Entertainment Group will debut on Peacock 45 days after their theatrical release, the Comcast Corp.-owned streamer said Thursday.

This means that most Universal, Focus Features and Dreamworks Animation movies, including Blumhouse's "The Black Phone" and Michael Bay's "Ambulance," will be available for streaming on the subscription service much faster than usual.

The typical gap between a movie's debut in multiplexes and its arrival on pay TV or streaming has been eight to nine months.

Not all Universal movies will follow the new 45-day streaming model. "Jurassic World: Dominion" and Christopher Nolan's "Oppenheimer" are expected to be exceptions.

Dec. 11 birthdays: Actor Rita Moreno is 90. Singer David Gates is 81. Singer Brenda Lee is 77. Actor Bess Armstrong is 68. Singer Jermaine Jackson is 67. Bassist Nikki Sixx is 63. Actor Gary Dourdan is 55. Comedian Mo'Nique is 54. Actor Rider Strong is 42. Actor Xosha Roquemore is 37. Actor Hailee Steinfeld



ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

Wife spends freely, sets up private accounts

Dear Amy: I met my wife online right before I had a serious accident, followed by cancer in 2013. She stayed with me during my recovery, but it was not "cookies and cream" during that time. We fought a lot. She left a few times, but always came back.

I was grateful to her for her financial and emotional support for a little over a year, and ended up marrying her when I was finished with my treatments.

She works in a public school and has a low salary. Since I returned to work, I have financially supported our household (95%) and have used up my accident settlement to pay for our daily expenses.

Two years ago, her father died and she received a sizable inheritance, as well as his house.

Since then, she has kept her finances hidden from me. She filed taxes separately, without telling me. She has spent extravagantly on herself.

She has made no effort to help with our daily finances.

She won't let us move into her dad's house because her "deadbeat" 30-year-old son is living there by himself, having dropped out of college to become a gambler. In the meantime, I am still paying \$3,300 monthly in rent.

I granted her power of attorney in case of my incapacitation and made her my beneficiary, as she requested, several years ago. Now, I find out, she never did that in return!

She has hidden all of her inherited assets in a living trust. In the meantime, I cannot save enough for our retirement, and I am

constantly worried about our finances.

What can I do? Tired and Taxed

Dear Tired: Given the lack of financial trust between you two, it would be a good idea to immediately remove your wife as your power of attorney.

You should then be honest with her that you can no longer afford the \$3,300 rent, and so she will need to pay half of the rental expense and share other household expenses.

The money and the property she inherited from her father rightfully belong to her. She might be deliberately keeping these assets separate in order to prevent them from being considered "community property."

But just as you put your accident award toward living expenses, she should now dip into her kitty to help support the household.

I assume she will refuse. Her refusal to contribute to her own housing and living expenses, to follow through on verbal agreements, or to share financial information with you are real red flags. Staying married to her could potentially sink you.

Dear Amy: My sister and I are planning a surprise 70th birthday dinner party at a nice restaurant for my parents.

It will be mostly family and a couple of friends.

We decided to foot the entire bill before sending out the invites.

A couple of family members have asked if they can contribute some money toward the bill, and we don't know how to respond!

My sister and I chatted about it and feel pretty weird taking anything from anybody.

What should we do?

Unsure

Dear Unsure: A couple of family members politely asked in advance if they could help with the bill. This is a generous response to your invitation.

All you have to do is to acknowledge their thoughtfulness when you decline.

You respond: "It is so kind of you to offer, but we've got this, and it will be our pleasure to host you on this special night. Looking forward to seeing you!"

Dear Amy: I am a middleschool teacher.

My students and I would like to thank you for devoting your advice column entirely to the stories of Vietnam veterans this past Veterans Day.

It can be challenging to describe this period to very young people whose parents don't even remember Vietnam.

The words of these veterans and their loved ones really helped to put this conflict — and our country's response to those who served — into context.

- Teacher

Dear Teacher: I am so gratified that my columns are so often used as teaching tools in classrooms. In this case, we all owe a debt to the veterans who provided their own testimony.

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Neil Young rebuilds a barn, reunites with Crazy Horse

By Andrew Dalton Associated Press

Neil Young didn't rebuild a log barn from the 1850s that was falling into the ground in the Colorado Rockies just so he could make an album in it with Crazy Horse, his frequent collaborators for more than 50 years, but that was a big part of the inspira-

"We got some people to restore it back to the original greatness, with ponderosa pines, it's just beautiful, just a beautiful building," Young said via Zoom from the property there that he shares with wife Daryl Hannah. "I felt like it was going to be a great place to make music."

The space was so significant to the process that "Barn" became the name of both the album and a companion documentary, directed by Hannah.

It was also an ideal spot for Young to cautiously reunite with drummer Ralph Molina, bassist Billy Talbot and multi-instrumentalist Nils Lofgren.

"It's remote," Young said. "With the pandemic and everything, we felt like we could get everybody there safely and have everybody vaccinated and pure."

Crazy Horse has always taken Young, now 76, to remote places musically too. He says they still provide the same "cosmic vibe" they did on 1969's "Everybody Knows This Is Nowhere," 1975's "Zuma," 1979's "Rust Never Sleeps" and 1990's "Ragged Glory."

"It's just a place where we get to that I don't get with anybody else, with Crazy Horse's ability to jam and the ability to carry on and keep going with not a care in the world," Young said. "They are as happy to play a song for



'Barn'

Neil Young & Crazy Horse (Reprise Records)

20 minutes as they are for three minutes."

A "barn" is normally musicians' shorthand for a cold. cavernous room. But this one brought only audial warmth.

"It sounds like God because there's no square to it, it has no standing waves because it's all the insides of these big logs one on top of another," Young said. "It's a bunch of round surfaces. From an acoustic standpoint, it's flawless."

They built a stage inside and played in their liveand-loose style to a recording truck known as Le Mobile, where engineer Guy Charbonneau and producer Niko Bolas sat parked outside.

"It had just been converted to digital. We took all the digital stuff out and put the analog back in," he said with a smile.

Beyond barn-raising, Young stayed busy during the coronavirus pandemic, writing all nine songs for the album and assembling the next wave of recordings for release through his archives website.

"There were no distractions," he said. "And we didn't have any superfluous jobs to do, none of the trappings of keeping everything going and keeping touring, all that went awav.'

Volume three of the

career-spanning archives, covering a period in the mid-1970s, was collected with an assist from fans who write in with their memories of his music. at times pointing him to things he didn't remember existed.

"It's really a beautiful piece of work, all of the songs that made me feel so good to hear, and things that I've never heard in my life that we've uncovered." Young said. "There's a Crazy Horse record, a live Crazy Horse performance that opens up volume three, which I think is the best thing ever recorded with Crazy Horse."

The album has songs celebrating love, memory and old friends, but it's darkened by the state of a world that stokes Young's sadness and anger.

The pandemic feels present on the long signature song, "Welcome Back."

"For the world has closed us in but we must allow for changes to be made," Young sings. "Welcome back, welcome back, it's not the same. The shade is just you blinking."

His anger over lethargic global action on climate change is felt on "Human Race," in which he sings of "children of the fires and floods today's people have left behind."

"It pisses me off that we're not doing as much and that we're so distracted," Young said. "We're losing track of what we're supposed to be doing. I guess, you know, the Earth is challenged if we want to have a place for our children, for our grandchildren, we better get our stuff together."

He sighed and said "the best thing I can do is create art or music or something that gives people a place to go.'

HOROSCOPES

Aries (March 21-April 19): The road is currently open for you to make major career progress. A VIP or other supervisor could recognize any hard work you've been putting in lately. This could pay off with a very nice reward. Go ahead and blow your own horn!

Taurus (April 20-May 20): The world has some incredible things to offer you today. Don't limit yourself to your own backyard – get out there and see everything that's happening! You could have some very enjoyable and eye-opening experiences. Be ready to immerse yourself in the unknown.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): Life turns up the heat today with intense intimacy. This could spell out some very deep romantic scenarios, but it may also signal a large windfall or another kind of unexpected bounty your way. If you've been hoping to secure some aid, this is the perfect time to make your pitch.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): A relationship could go through a major transformation today, but it seems it will be generally for the best. Put the focus on any plus-ones, whether they're romantic, platonic or professional. If you need help completing a project, go ahead and ask for help.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): You usually don't have a problem with feeling confident in yourself, Leo, but today the cracks in your exterior transform into something much better! If you've been sleeping on your exercise routine or letting your health fall, an overhaul might be something to look into. Start living life better. You've got what it takes.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Life may feel a bit like a beauty pageant today, and there's a chance you could sweep the whole competition! This is the perfect moment for you to show off a little — or a lot — more than usual. Go ahead and trumpet your achievements. You deserve to have all eyes on you.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Libra is considered an inherently friendly sign, and today you express this side of yourself - preferably through your home environment. Mix things up and see what could be. If you're tired of looking at the same walls, start browsing for a new place to hang up your hat. Your perfect home is waiting.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): There's a vibrant electricity in the air today, and you're going to have a hard time missing it. Keep your eyes peeled and your ears open for something fantastic. You could receive some very interesting news or find something wonderfully unexpected.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You could conjure up some real money magic today, so get to work early with your sleeves rolled up and be ready to make it rain. If you're hoping for a raise, this is a good time to ask. You might also find a new professional opportunity that potentially offers a lot more money than you currently earn.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You've got a special kind of magnetism at the moment, Capricorn. This is the perfect time to change up your look or style, whether it be with a new hairdo or a whole new wardrobe. Don't be shocked if you're in the mood for an extreme and totally fresh look.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your fantasies can take you far, and right now they could carry you to lands beyond your wildest dreams! Today's events might suddenly feel like you're walking through a painting or surrealist film. Don't fight this energy instead, give yourself over to it. Get on board and let the current carry you.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): It's a good day to link up with your friends, because vou are sure to have an unforgettable experience together. Someone could bring a special opportunity your way — something you might not have even known was missing. Don't hide yourself away!

TODAY IN **HISTORY**

Associated Press

On Dec. 11, 1941, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States; the U.S. responded in kind.

In 1946, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

(UNICEF) was established.

In 1972, Apollo 17's lunar module landed on the moon.

In 1980, "Magnum P.I.." starring Tom Selleck, premiered on CBS.

In 1998, majority Republicans on the House Judiciary Committee pushed through three articles

of impeachment against President Bill Clinton, over Democratic objections.

In 2008, former Nasdaq chairman Bernie Madoff was arrested and accused of running a multibillion-dollar Ponzi scheme that wiped out the life savings of thousands of people. (Madoff died in April 2021 while serving a 150-year federal prison sentence.)

Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz









Classic Doonesbury By Garry Trudeau







Garfield By Jim Davis







Shoe By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly





Dustin By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker







Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis













Arctic Circle By Alex Hallatt







Jump Start By Robb Armstrong



Get Fuzzy By Darby Conley







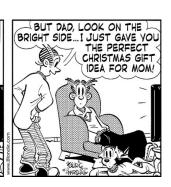




Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall







Dilbert By Scott Adams







Gil Thorp By Neal Rubin and Frank McLaughlin





Mary Worth By Karen Moy and June Brigman





Rex Morgan, M.D. By Terry Beatty





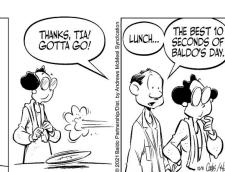
Judge Parker By Woody Wilson and Mike Manley





Baldo By Cantu and Castellanos





Funky Winkerbean By Tom Batiuk





Lio By Mark Tatulli

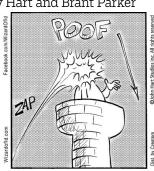






Wizard Of Id By Johnny Hart and Brant Parker

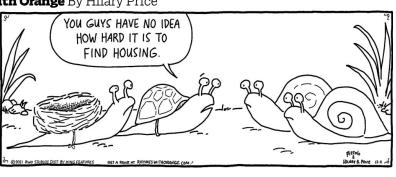






Rhymes With Orange By Hilary Price





Monty By Jim Meddick





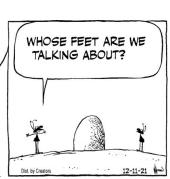












GLUG BEER

Beetle Bailey by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker





Hagar The Horrible By Chris Browne







Curtis By Ray Billingsley









Pickles By Brian Crane









Zits By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman







Rose Is Rose By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer











MEEMAN HUG!

Mother Goose And Grimm By Mike Peters



CROSSWORD

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

54 '90s-'00s HBO

series with

sessions

57 Comprehend

58 Impresario's

60 Election focuses

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59 Hibachi

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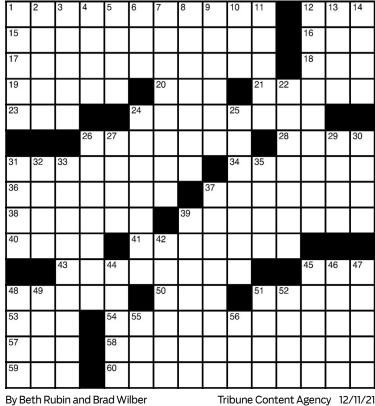
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- stop 20 Poetic indicator of relative time
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- time 34 Official who sings in
- Hebrew 36 Leverage provider
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- 38 Utah Jazz center Whiteside
- 39 Ran into trouble 40 Shakespearean
- last gasp 41 Neologists Zoom frustrations
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BRIDGE

nothing to try for this possibility. If it turns North dealer. Neither side vulnerable. NORTH **♠** A Q 9 **♥**A 7 ♦ A K 10 9 **♣**A 7 5 3 WEST **EAST ♦** 5 3 **♦** 6 4 2 ♥KQ1093 **♥**8642 ♦ 7.2. ♦ J 8 6 4 **♣Q** 10 9 8 **SOUTH ★** K J 10 8 7 **♥**J5 ♦ Q 5 3 **♣**K J 6 The bidding:

Be thankful for

South

king of hearts.

3 ♠

6 🛦

west

Pass

Last

Pass

Pass

Opening lead -

This hand was played in the 1986 National Intercollegiate Bridge Championship. The North-South pairs were expected to arrive at six spades, and if they did they were awarded 10 par points.

They were also awarded maximum points if South made six spades, having been directed to play that contract against the opening lead of the heart king.

Declarer's theoretically best line of play is to win the king of hearts with the ace and cash two rounds of trump. South then temporarily discontinues drawing trump and plays the heart jack at trick four, forcing West into the lead with the queen.

In the actual case, West does not have the lone missing trump and so is compelled to return a diamond, a club or a heart at trick five, all of which present declarer with his 12th trick.

It is true that South is lucky to find West with only two trumps, but it costs him

6

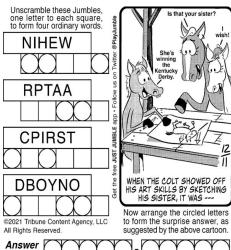
out that West has the missing trump and is able to exit with it at trick five, South can then test his luck in diamonds by cashing the A-K-Q, hoping the jack will fall. If it doesn't, he still has the club finesse to fall The prescribed method of play is often

referred to as a partial elimination. This is because it differs significantly from the usual situation where declarer clears two suits from dummy's hand and his own before putting a defender on lead to force a iosing return.

Regardless of what the technical term for the play may be, the simple fact is that on this deal. South can significantly increase his chances by drawing only two rounds of trump and then exiting with a heart.

JUMBLE

BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK



here: (Answers Monday) Jumbles: UNFIT HOAGIE HOUND ZEALOT Yesterday's It makes expert poker players happy to welcome an inexperienced player — INTO THE FOLD

> **ANSWER TO PREVIOUS CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

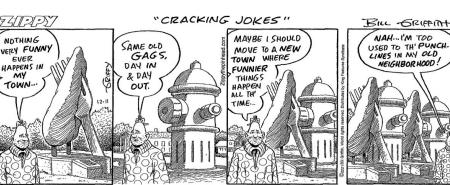
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row, column and 3-by-3 box FAIRYTACKLE MOVE SAILS YSTATION DOCKINGBUSINESS I R K S T A R FICKLEFOLDER GALAYORE S C H O O L B U C K S S U I T U P D I E T 1 6 9 5 8 7 2 3 4

-GRIFFITH



COURANT.COM/SPORTS

UCONN WOMENS BASKETBALL

Dissecting Huskies loss to Georgia Tech

Here's what they need to do to turn things around against UCLA

By Alexa Philippou Hartford Courant

There was certainly an amount of fatalism in UConn women's basketball coach Geno Auriemma's postgame press conference after the shorthanded No. 3 Huskies fell to Georgia Tech, 57-44, Thursday in Atlanta. It was the first time since February 2012 that they lost to an unranked opponent.

"We're in a bad way right now as a team," Auriemma said.

a team," Auriemma said. And about the Huskies' struggling offense in particular? "I don't think it's gonna get fixed. I really don't." Regardless of how Auriemma and the rest of the team felt in the immediate aftermath of the loss, they must prepare to face UCLA Saturday in the Never Forget Tribute Classic and avoid back-to-back losses, which last happened in March 1993.

Here's what needs to happen for UConn to come out with a win on Saturday.

Defense, rebounding must be excellent

For all the issues UConn showed Thursday, defense and rebounding (particularly in the first half) were not among them.

Holding Georgia Tech to 39 points in three quarters before the

Up next

UConn vs. UCLA, 1 p.m., ABC

Inside: Huskies need Westbrook, Williams to step up against Bruins, **C4**

unraveling of the fourth? That's solid. UConn also had strong control of the glass in the first half, going into the break plus seven on the boards against a Georgia Tech team that typically dominates that phase of the game. In fact, Thursday was statistically the worst rebounding outing the Yellow Jackets have had all season.

Auriemma was correct when he said, "If you work hard, play good defense, rebound the ball, it

Turn to Women, Page 4



Connecticut guard Evina Westbrook sits on the bench in the final moments of the team's loss to Georgia Tech on Thursday in Atlanta.

JOHN BAZEMORE/AP

GIANTS

Glennon over Fromm?

Giants, like most NFL teams, going with safe choice

By Tom Rock Newsday

LOS ANGELES — The Giants are starting Mike Glennon on Sunday because he is experienced and familiar with the offense and can make the kind of nanosecond decisions an NFL quarterback needs to process on each snap of the game.

"Mike did a lot of positive things last week that I thought gave us a chance," Joe Judge said. "Mike stands in there. He looks to deliver an accurate ball. He's not afraid to take a hit. He's got a good presence at the line of scrimmage ... Mike did a good job of controlling the protection, putting us in the right place, checking to the right beaters for certain coverages and giving us an opportunity."

In short: The Giants know what to expect from the veteran.

Which is exactly why so many Giants fans want nothing to do with him.

Most would probably prefer to see Jake Fromm on the field against the Chargers precisely because so little is known about him. We saw him have a successful college career at Georgia and then disappear into the depth of NFL rosters, surfacing only a week or so ago when the Giants plucked the fifth-round pick from the Bills' practice squad after Daniel Jones reported discomfort in his neck.

Turn to Giants, Page 2



New York Giants QB Mike Glennon takes the field Sunday in Miami Gardens, Fla. **LYNNE SLADKY/AP**

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP SATURDAY

GOAL TO GO



SHAWN MCFARLAND/HARTFORD COURANT

aloney quarterback Angel Arce has thrown for 1,901 yards and 21 touchdowns in leading his Spartans to an 11-1 record and a chance for the program's first title in the Class L final Saturday against Windsor. The Class L championship kicks off at 11 a.m. at Veterans Stadium in New Britain. For previews of all the finals, see Page C2.

Game schedule

At Veterans Stadium, New Britain

Class L: No. 5 Windsor (11-1) vs. No. 3 Maloney (11-1), 11 a.m.

Class M: No. 2 Rockville (10-2) vs. No. 1 Killingly (11-0), 3 p.m.

At Trumbull High

RisCassi & Davis

injured for more than 60 years

Protecting the rights of the

Class S: No. 2 Cromwell/Portland (12-0) vs. No. 1 Bloomfield (12-0), 11 a.m.

Class LL: No. 3 Darien (11-1) vs. No. 1 Fairfield Prep (11-1), 3 p.m.

UCONN MENS BASKETBALL

Hawkins must take the chance to grow

With depleted Huskies, freshman can show what he's got against St. Bonaventure

By Shreyas Laddha Hartford Courant

Jordan Hawkins really cares. Sometimes that means the UConn men's basketball freshmen guard gets in his own head. It's like he wants to be perfect on the court, so he starts pressing. As any classic overthinker can tell you, that's when you make mistakes.

For No. 15 UConn (8-2), this is an opportunity to showcase who they are when the chips are down. UConn finds itself without two of its team leaders as Tyrese Martin (wrist) and Adama Sanogo (abdominal strain), out with injuries. On Saturday against St. Bonaventure (8-1) in the Never Forget Classic in Newark, N.J., UConn must take the opportunity to figure out its identity.

On Wednesday night against West Virginia, Hawkins struggled. He found himself as offensive option No. 2, and the result was not pretty. The crowd was hostile and it was Hawkins first true road game. The sharpshooter failed to find the bottom of the net going 0-for-7 with zero points and three turnovers.

Hawkins looked flustered and the crowd seemed to affect his shot causing an air ball or two. His overall body language wasn't great, he looked frustrated and took the loss and his play extra hard.

"We are trying to keep Jordan's head up, he's really disappointed in himself," said Andre Jackson following the loss. "He's a freshman still. He's still learning and he's really down himself."

Hawkins wants to win badly.

"He wants to be good for us like, now," Jackson said. "He wants to perfect, and nobody is really perfect. Whenever he does something or messes something up, he shows it. We are trying to keep him positive and keep his head up."

Hawkins has shown flashes of greatness, from 16 points against Auburn to 15 points against Grambling State. He has the chance to be

Turn to Men, Page 4

Up next

UConn vs. St. Bonaventure, 4 p.m., ESPN2

R&D

Safety Tip of the Day

Always drive defensively - particularly at night. The rate of fatal crashes involving alcohol is almost four times higher at night than during the day.

riscassi-davis.com

131 Oak Street • Hartford, Connecticut 860.522.1196 • 800.344.5297

UP NEXT

Patriots: Bye; at Colts, Dec. 18, 8:15 p.m. Giants: at Chargers, Sunday, 4:05 p.m. Jets: Saints, Sunday, 1 p.m. **UConn MBB:** Never Forget Tribute Classic: vs. St. Bonaventure (Newark, N.J.), Saturday, 4 p.m.; Providence (XL), Dec. 18, 5 p.m.; at Marquette, Dec. 21, 9 p.m. **UConn WBB:** Never Forget Tribute Classic: vs. UCLA (Newark, N.J.), Saturday, 1 p.m.; Basketball HoF Women's Showcase: vs. Louisville (Mohegan Sun), Dec. 19, 3:30 p.m.; Marquette (XL), Dec. 29, 7 p.m. Celtics: Bucks, Monday, 7:30 p.m.; Warriors, Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Knicks, Dec. 18, 7 p.m. Knicks: Bucks, Sunday, noon; Warriors, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.; at Rockets, Thursday, 8 p.m. Nets: at Pistons, Sunday, 6

UConn hockey: at Harvard, Jan. 2, 7 p.m.; at Boston Coll., Jan. 8, 4 p.m.; Boston Univ., Jan. 14, 7 p.m.

p.m.; Raptors, Tuesday, 7:30

p.m.; 76ers, Thursday, 7:30

Bruins: at Flames. Saturday. 10 p.m.; Knights, Tuesday, 7 p.m.; at Islanders, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

Rangers: Predators, Sunday, 7 p.m.; at Avalanche, Tuesday, 9 p.m.; at Coyotes, Wednesday, 9 p.m. Wolf Pack: at Lehigh Valley, Sunday, 3 p.m.; Lehigh Valley, Friday, 7 p.m.; at Springfield, Dec. 18, 7 p.m

TV/RADIO **AUTO RACING**

7:55 a.m.: Formula 1 Racing Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. Qualifying. (Live) ESPN2 **BASKETBALL**

12 p.m.: Syracuse at Georgetown. (Live) FOX 12 p.m.: BYU at Creighton. (Live) FS1

1 p.m.: Women's College: Never Forget Tribute Classic: UCLA vs. UConn. (Live), ABC. 2 p.m.: Drake at Clemson. (Live) ACC

2 p.m.: Central Connecticut State at Providence. (Live)

2:30 p.m.: UCLA at Marquette. (Live) FOX 4 p.m.: Womens College } New Hampshire at Boston College. (Live) ACC 4 p.m.: Eastern Illinois at Butler. (Live) FS1 4 p.m.: College: Never Forget Tribute Classic: St. Bonaventure vs. UConn. (Live), ESPN2. 4:30 p.m.: UNC-Greensboro at Tennessee. (Live) SEC 5 p.m.: Arizona at Illinois. (Live) FOX

6 p.m.: Womens College } Clemson at Syracuse. (Live)

6:30 p.m.: Minnesota at Michigan. (Live) FS1 8 p.m.: Elon at North Carolina. (Live) ACC 8:30 p.m.: Golden State Warriors at Philadelphia 76ers. (Live) ABC 8:30 p.m.: Cincinnati at Xavier. (Live) FS1 12 a.m.: Link Academy at Southern California Academy. (Live) ESPNU **FOOTBALL**

3 p.m.: Army at Navy. (Live) **CBS**

HOCKEY

1 p.m.: Detroit Red Wings at Colorado Avalanche. (Taped) 7 p.m.: Montreal Canadiens

at St. Louis Blues. (Live) **SPRTNET 7 p.m.:** Chicago Blackhawks

at Toronto Maple Leafs. (Live) NHL 10 p.m.: Boston Bruins

at Calgary Flames. (Live) SPRTNET, NESN SOCCER

6:30 a.m.: FA Womens Super League Reading vs Chelsea. (Live) SPRTNET

8 a.m.: Italian Serie B Soccer AC Monza 1912 vs Frosinone Calcio. (Live) FSP 9 a.m.: Italian Serie A Soccer Fiorentina vs Salernitana.

(Live) CBSSN 9:30 a.m.: Bundesliga Soccer Bayern Munich vs Mainz. (Live) SPRTNET 10 a.m.: 2021 FIFA Arab Cup Quarterfinal: Teams TBA. (Live) FS1

10 a.m.: Premier League Soccer Chelsea vs Leeds United. (Live) USA 12:30 p.m.: Premier League Soccer Norwich City vs Manchester United. (Live)

3 p.m.: 2021 MLS Cup New York City FC at Portland Timbers. (Live) ABC **TENNIS**

6 a.m.: ATP Tennis Florianópolis-ATP Challenger, Maia-ATP Challenger, Semifinals. (Live) TENNIS TRACK AND FIELD 1a.m.: ACC Cross Country Championship. (Taped) ACC

WINTER SPORTS 5 p.m.: FIS Snowboarding Copper Mountain. (Live) NBC **HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL**

Local football teams vying for state championships

By Lori Riley Hartford Courant

Five area football teams will be playing for state titles Saturday at Veterans Stadium in New Britain and Trumbull High School. Bloomfield will be going for its 10th state championship; Cromwell/Portland for its second and Rockville for its first since 1990 and Maloney and Windsor will battle for the Class L

Here is a look at the four state finals:

Class LL

Fairfield Prep vs. Darien: No. 1 Fairfield Prep (11-1) takes on No. 3 Darien (11-1) at 3 p.m. in Trumbull. The two teams did not play each other during the regular season. Fairfield Prep's only loss came to Greenwich, 14-7, on Oct. 2. Darien lost its only game on Thanksgiving, 12-7, to New Canaan. The Blue Wave are going for their eighth title, first since 2017 and played in the 2019 final, where Newtown beat Darien dramatically on the last play on the anniversary of the Sandy Hook shootings. Senior running back Tighe Cumminsky has 1,678 yards and 18 TDs for Darien. Fairfield Prep hasn't been to a state championship game since 2013 and hasn't won a title since 1988. The Jesuits' offense is led by quarterback Connor Smith (1,627 yards, 17 touchdowns) and running back Daniel Barnick (11 TDs, 1,023 yards).

Class L

Maloney vs. Windsor: No. 5 Windsor (11-1) will face third-seeded Maloney (11-1) in an all-CCC final at Veterans Stadium in New Britain at 11 a.m. Windsor had a huge comeback victory, 35-31, over top-seeded St. Joseph-Trumbull in the semifinals while Maloney beat Masuk handily 56-21. Maloney has won 11 straight games after losing to Southington in the season opener. Windsor's



Maloney's Angel Arce passes in a win over Hall in early November. Maloney will face Windsor for the Class L title Saturday. PHOTO BY CLOE POISSON/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

only loss was to St. Joseph in the regular season. Windsor, which hasn't been to a state championship game since 2014, is led by junior quarterback Elijah Cromartie, who threw for 207 yards and four touchdowns in the semifinal win. Maloney is 0-3 in state finals, losing 54-14 to Hand in 2018. The Spartans' defense has been a key to the team's success and its offense is led by senior quarterback Angel Arce (1901 yards, 21 TDs) and junior back Josh Boganski (1,601 yards, 16 TDs). "We think we're one of the best teams in the state," Maloney coach Kevin Frederick said. "We have the opportunity to prove that Saturday."

Class M

Rockville vs. Killingly: Second-seeded Rockville (10-2) will take on top-seeded Killingly (11-0) at Veterans Stadium in New Britain at 3 p.m. Rockville hasn't been to a state championship game since 1995 and last won a title in 1990. Killingly is playing for its fourth title, losing to Weston 27-6 in 2019. Rockville had to beat Ellington, coach Erick Knickerbocker's alma mater, in back to back games, once on Thanksgiving and then again the following Tuesday in the quarterfinals to advance to the semifinals, where the Rams beat Torrington. In 2018, the Rams went to the quarterfinals and in 2019, the semifinals. Jack Sharpe and Soren Reif have combined for over 2,000 yards rushing and 37 touchdowns for Killingly.

Class S

Cromwell/Portland vs. Bloomfield: The battle of two unbeaten teams will take place in Trumbull at 11 a.m. Cromwell/ Portland, the second seed (12-0), beat up on perennial power Ansonia 46-7 to get to the final. Bloomfield's defense played a big role in the Warhawks' 22-14 semifinal win over New Fairfield. The Warhawks (12-0) have a multi-pronged offense and went to the air with sophomore quarterback Darrien Foster (1,441 yards, 22 touchdowns), who had 80 yards and two touchdowns against New Fairfield when Bloomfield running backs Connelius Patrick and Dallas Rose (who have combined to run for over 2,000 yards) were bottled up by the New Fairfield defense. Bloomfield last won a title in 2018 and will be going for its 10th championship. Cromwell/ Portland is led by former player Randell Bennett and the Panthers are playing in their first final since 2011. Quarterback Cole Brisson threw for six touchdowns in the semifinal win.

Lori Riley can be reached at lriley@courant.com.

CROSS COUNTRY

Conard senior Gavin Sherry in the hunt for a national title

By Lori Rilev Hartford Courant

Conard senior Gavin Sherry knows the key to success in Saturday's Eastbay National Cross Country championship race in San Diego is to get out in front early.

"Essentially everybody there is used to being in the top pack," Sherry said Thursday. "Everybody is going to try to be in the top pack and the first 800 [meters] is going to be around the two-mile pace or maybe even faster.

"It's kind of ridiculous but you have to get out at that speed in order to be competitive in the race. I remember sophomore year I felt like I had been getting out pretty fast in my races and I was pretty confident and then I stepped on the line at [the national championship] and the gun went off and I was instantaneously in 40th [place]."

Sherry, who recently won the Class L cross country championship, the State Open and the New England cross country championship, won the Eastbay (formerly Foot Locker) Northeast cross country championship at Van Cortlandt Park in New York in the same manner, bolting out to the front and holding on. He finished the 5.000meter course in 15:05.8, breaking Donn Cabral's 2007 meet record (15:09).

Sherry leads a contingent of four Connecticut runners for Saturday's race, which starts at 10 a.m. PT (1 p.m. ET). Manchester senior Aidan Puffer (sixth at Northeast regionals in 15:26.6), East Lyme's Luke Anthony (eighth, 15:28.3) and Newington's Michael Bohlke finished (10th, 15:36.7) will also compete.

Sherry finished 14th in the national race (15:36.8) in 2019 and was the fastest sophomore that year. The race was not held last year due to COVID-19.

"I'm super excited to be here," he said. "Not having it last year was really tough. The vibe here is tense but super exciting. I think I'm ready. I'm in a good spot with how my past few races have gone. I feel like I'm peaking at the right time for this race."

Only three Connecticut high school runners — all girls — have won national titles since the race started in 1979. Greenwich's Ceci Hopp won in 1980, Waterford's Liz Mueller won in 1991and Sydney Masciarelli, who lived in Northbridge, Massachusetts but was a sophomore at Marianapolis Prep in Thompson at the time, won in 2018.

For more information and to watch the race Saturday, go to: https:// eastbayxc.com/.

Lori Riley can be reached at lriley@courant.com.

After years of lagging, Belichick hires minorities

Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. The Patriots are one of the NFL's most successful franchises, winning six Super Bowls under the disciplined operation coach Bill Belichick has cultivated over the past two decades.

They aren't exempt from having room to improve when hiring minority assistant coaches.

Eighteen of the 56 assistants (32%) Belichick has employed in full-time roles during his 22 years in New England have been minorities.

Excluding strength and conditioning coaches, the number drops to 13, or just 25%. Both numbers fall below the 36% of minority assistants on coaching staffs across the NFL in 2020, according to The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sports' most recent Race and Gender Report Card.

Of Belichick's hires during his tenure in New England, former Browns and Texans coach Romeo Crennel, Dolphins coach Brian Flores and Giants defensive coordinator Patrick Graham are the only ones to have risen to the coordinator or head coaching ranks.

Belichick is trying to change that.

The Patriots began this season with eight minority assistants: longtime running backs coach Ivan Fears, receivers coach Troy Brown, defensive line coach DeMarcus Covington, inside linebackers coach Jerod Mayo, assistant offensive line coach Billy Yates, strength coaches Moses Cabrera and Deron



New England Patriots inside linebacker coach Jerod Mavo on the sideline Nov. 28 in Foxborough. Mass. **STEW MILNE/AP**

Mayo, and defensive coach Ross Douglas, a Bill Walsh Minority Coaching Fellow.

Covington, Brown and Yates are also alums of NFL fellowship programs.

It is the most minority assistants Belichick has ever had on his staff in a single season.

"I think it's a great program," Belichick said of the NFL's initiatives aimed at introducing more coaches of color to jobs in the league. "It's a great opportunity for both the teams and the participants in it to make a connection more than casually, but actually in the workplace and on the job. I think it's been great."

This past summer he also represented the Patriots and led a session at the NFL's fourth NFL Quarterback Coaching Summit, conducted in partnership with the Black College Football Hall of Fame.

Giants

from Page 1

When Glennon was in the concussion protocol it seemed for a few days as if Fromm might actually get the chance to start, and on Wednesday's practice at the University of Arizona, he was QB1. He would have been the first Giants quarterback to make his NFL debut in a start since 12th-round pick Jerry Golsteyn's rookie year in

But Glennon cleared the protocol on Friday and Fromm will be what he was last week: Glennon's backup.

Fromm has at least one attribute that Glennon lacks. His record is spotless. No one knows what he is or what he can be because he has yet to do anything. For NFL teams that is a liability. They'd much rather have someone like Glennon at the helm even if his 6-22 record as a starter is uninspiring and his 53.9 passer-rated, touchdown-less performance against the Dolphins last week was tepid at best. For NFL fans, someone like Fromm is a blank page waiting to be filled with possibilities and wonder.

the excitement surrounding Fromm. Ever since

Blame Tom Brady for

2001 when he was thrust into an unlikely starting role as an unheralded prospect picked 199th in the draft only to lead the Patriots to a Super Bowl title and become the greatest quarterback who ever lived, fans of all teams have been hoping that their oysters would produce such a pearl.

Sometimes it comes close. Washington's Taylor Heinicke seems to have emerged from obscurity to become a stable starting quarterback. Mike White's brief flash with fame as the Jets' unknown backup earlier this season certainly titillated with possibilities before they came crashing back to reality. Heck, it goes back before Brady's time. Kurt Warner's unlikely career arc felt like a Hollywood movie. Now it actually is one.

But for each success story there are dozens, maybe hundreds, of duds. The Giants have had plenty themselves in recent years from Ryan Nassib to Davis Webb to Kyle Lauletta. None of them started a game for the Giants. None of them started a game anywhere after they left the Giants, either. Webb, by the way, who has yet to thrown a regular-season pass and appeared in just one game, was ahead of Fromm on the Bills' depth

Mets likely to begin final round of managerial interviews next week

By Tim Healey Newsday

NEW YORK - The Mets expect to start the final round of managerial interviews by next week after a virtual meeting with Dodgers first-base coach Clayton McCullough on Thursday likely completed the first round, a source said.

Owner Steve Cohen is scheduled to participate in the in-person sit-downs with a small handful of finalists, according to a person familiar with the

Mets' process. The club's quick pace — finally focusing on finding a manager with little else they are able to do during the lockout means they could make a hire by the end of next

The Mets have interviewed six candidates. In addition to McCullough, there was former Angels and Tigers manager Brad Ausmus, Astros bench coach Joe Espada, Dodgers bench coach Bob Geren, Rays bench coach Matt Quatraro and veteran manager Buck Showalter, sources said this week. Pirates bench coach Don Kelly reportedly removed himself from consider-

McCullough, who will turn 42 this month, has the least major-league experience of the bunch, having spent only last season on Los Angeles' staff. Before that he worked in player development as the Dodgers' minor-league field coordinator and was a minor-league manager for the Blue Jays in 2006-14.



SCOREBOARD

NBA EASTERN CON	FERFNCE		NHL EASTERN CONFERENCE
ATLANTIC Brooklyn	W L P	CT GB	ATLANTIC GP W L OT PTS GF (Florida 25 17 4 4 38 96
Philadelphia Boston	14 12 .5 13 13 .5	38 3½ 300 4½	Tampa Bay 26 17 5 4 38 89 Toronto 28 18 8 2 38 88
New York Toronto SOUTHEAST	11 14 .4	80 5 40 6 CT GB	Detroit 27 13 11 3 29 75 Boston 23 13 8 2 28 65 Buffalo 25 8 14 3 19 70
Miami Washington	15 11 .5	77 – 77 –	Ottawa 24 7 16 1 15 63 Montreal 28 6 19 3 15 61
Atlanta Charlotte	13 12 .5	20 1½ 19 1½	Washington 26 16 4 6 38 92
Orlando CENTRAL		.92 10 CT GB	Carolina 25 18 6 1 37 81 N.Y. Rangers 25 17 5 3 37 77
Chicago Milwaukee	16 10 .6	554 — 515 1	Pittsburgh 25 12 8 5 29 75 Columbus 25 13 11 1 27 81 New Jersey 24 10 9 5 25 70
Cleveland Indiana Detroit	12 16 .4	38 3 29 6 .67 12	Philadelphia 24 8 12 4 20 56 N.Y. Islanders 22 6 11 5 17 46
WESTERN CON		.07 12	WESTERN CONFERENCE
Memphis		CT GB	CENTRAL GP W L OT PTS GF (Minnesota 26 19 6 1 39 101
Dallas San Antonio	9 15 .3	80 2½ 75 5	St. Louis 26 14 8 4 32 90 Nashville 26 15 10 1 31 77 Colorado 23 14 7 2 30 99
Houston New Orleans NORTHWEST	7 20 .2	33 6 59 8½ CT GB	Winnipeg 26 13 9 4 30 79 Dallas 24 13 9 2 28 68
Utah Denver	18 7 .7	20 – 80 6	Chicago 26 10 14 2 22 58 Arizona 25 5 18 2 12 44
Minnesota Portland	11 14 .4	40 7 23 7½	PACIFIC GP W L OT PTS GF (Calgary 27 15 6 6 36 85
Oklahoma City PACIFIC		33 9½ CT GB	Anaheim 28 15 8 5 35 91 Edmonton 25 16 9 0 32 89 Vegas 25 15 10 0 30 86
Golden State Phoenix		340 – 333 ½	San Jose 27 14 12 1 29 73 Los Angeles 25 11 10 4 26 68
L.A. Clippers L.A. Lakers	13 13 .5	38 7½ 300 8½	Vancouver 27 10 15 2 22 66 Seattle 26 9 15 2 20 73
Sacramento FRIDAY'S RESULT		40 10	NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in
Indiana 106, Dalla Sacramento at C	as 93		each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.
Brooklyn at Atlar New York at Toro	nto, late		FRIDAY'S RESULTS
Cleveland at Min Detroit at New O L.A. Lakers at Ok	rleans, late	ate	N.Y. Rangers at Buffalo, late Pittsburgh at Washington, late
Milwaukee at Ho Boston at Phoeni	uston, late x, late		Nashville at New Jersey, late Detroit at Colorado, late Florida at Arizona, late
SATURDAY'S GAN Orlando at L.A. C	lippers, 3:30p.	.m.	Philadelphia at Vegas, late Winnipeg at Vancouver, late
Utah at Washing Chicago at Miam	i, 8p.m.		SATURDAY'S GAMES
Houston at Mem Sacramento at C Denver at San An	leveland, 8p.n		Tampa Bay at Ottawa, 1p.m. Anaheim at Pittsburgh, 7p.m. Chicago at Toronto, 7p.m.
Golden State at F THURSDAY'S RES	Philadelphia, 8 ULTS		Montreal at St. Louis, 7p.m. Washington at Buffalo, 7p.m.
Utah 118, Philade Memphis 108, L./	elphia 96 A. Lakers 95		New Jersey at N.Y. Islanders, 7:30p.m Philadelphia at Arizona, 9p.m.
San Antonio 123, LATEST LIN			Boston at Calgary, 10p.m. Carolina at Edmonton, 10p.m.
COLLEGE BASI	(ETBALL SA		Columbus at Seattle, 10p.m. Dallas at San Jose, 10:30p.m. Minnesota at Los Angeles, 10:30p.m.
FAVORITE Syracuse at Ohio St.	2½ at Geo	IDERDOG orgetown /isconsin	THURSDAY'S RESULTS
BYU at La. Tech	5½ at 0 11 LaL	reighton afayette	Chicago 2, Montreal 0 Tampa Bay 5, Toronto 3
at Saint Joseph's at Detroit Mercy	1 10½ W. I	Temple Michigan	Anaheim 2, Columbus 1, SO Nashville 4, N.Y. Islanders 3 St. Louis 6, Detroit 2
at Valparaiso at Fort Wayne at E. Michigan		Charlotte Missouri FIU	Carolina 2, Calgary 1, OT Boston 3, Edmonton 2
at Oklahoma Clemson	1½ / 2	Arkansas at Drake	Winnipeg 3, Seattle 0 Minnesota 5, San Jose 2
at Michigan St. at Youngstown S		Penn St. Canisius	Los Angeles 4, Dallas 0
Colorado St. E. Washington at Tenn Tech		Miss. St. N. Dakota Troy	COLLEGE BASKETBALL
at Tulsa at La Salle	3 SIU Edw	ardsville nsylvania	MEN'S AP TOP 25 FARED No. 1 Purdue (8-1) did not play. Next: NC State, Sunday.
at Mercer UCLA	51/2 at M	Southern larquette	No. 2 Baylor (8-0) did not play. Next: No. 6Villanova, Sunday.
Illinois St. at Washington St at UT-Arlington		iicago St. akota St. Lamar	No. 3 Duke (7-1) did not play. Next: vs SC State, Tuesday, Dec. 14.
at UT-Arlington at Kansas at UConn	23	Lamar Missouri aventure	No. 4 UCLA (8-1) did not play. Next: at Marquette, Saturday.
at Butler at ETSU	22½ 4½ More	E. Illinois ehead St.	No. 5 Gonzaga (8-2) did not play. Nex vs. Washington, Sunday. No. 6 Villanova (7-2) did not play. Nex
at Sam Houston Pacific at Missouri St.		UTSA n Jose St. I Roberts	at No. 2Baylor, Sunday. No. 7 Texas (6-2) did not play. Next: v
at Missouri St. UIC at Tennessee		Michigan	ArkPine Bluff, Tuesday. No. 8 Kansas (7-1) did not play. Next: vs. Missouri, Saturday.
at North Texas at S. Dakota	4 6½ N	UMass . Arizona	vs. Missouri, Saturday. No. 9 Alabama (7-1) did not play. Nex vs. No. 14Houston, Saturday.
Arizona at Saint Louis at Utah	7 Bostoi	at Illinois n College anhattan	No. 10 Kentucky (7-1) did not play. Next: at Notre Dame, Saturday.
Kentucky LSU	31/2 at No	tre Dame Ga. Tech	No. 11 Arizona (8-0) did not play. Nex at Illinois, Saturday. No. 12 Arkansas (9-0) did not play.
at Richmond at St. Mary's	9½ 9½ UC Santa		Next: at Oklahoma, Saturday. No. 13 Tennessee (6-1) did not play.
at Michigan TCU at Abilene Chr.	1½ at Te	xas A&M	Next: vs. UNC-Greensboro, Saturday. No. 14 Houston (8-1) did not play. Nex
at Fresno St. at Loyola Mmt.		Drexel UC Irvine Iexico St.	at No. 9Alabama, Saturday. No. 15 UConn (8-2) did not play. Next:
at North Carolina VCU	221/2	Elon Dominion	vs. St. Bonaventure, Saturday. No. 16 USC (9-0) did not play. Next: vs Long Beach St., Sunday.
at Xavier at Mississippi Middle Tennesse	5½ W. I	incinnati Kentucky	No. 17 Iowa St. (9-0) did not play. Nex vs. Jackson St., Sunday.
Middle Tennesse at California at Dixie State		IT-Martin nta Clara Denver	No. 18 Auburn (7-1) did not play. Next vs. Nebraska, Saturday.
at Alabama at Wyoming	11/2	Houston ah Valley	No. 19 Michigan St. (8-2) did not play. Next: vs. Penn St., Saturday. No. 20 Florida (7-2) did not play. Next
at Portland St. at CS Bakersfield	6½ 14	Cal Poly Idaho	at Maryland, Sunday. No. 21 Ohio St. (7-2) did not play. Nex
NBA FAVORITE LI		TURDAY IDERDOG	vs. No. 22Wisconsin, Saturday. No. 22 Wisconsin (8-1) did not play.
Utah	5 (218½) 9 (222)	at Wash. Houston	Next: at No. 210hio St., Saturday. No. 23 Seton Hall (8-1) did not play. Next: vs. Rutgers, Sunday.
at Cleveland 6	½ (OFF) ½ (216½) Sa 4 (OFF)	Chicago cramento at Phila.	No. 24 BYU (8-1) did not play. Next: at Creighton, Saturday.
Denver	1 (216½) at 9	S. Antonio	No. 25 LSU (8-0) did not play. Next: at Georgia Tech, Saturday.
	NE UNDERDO		FRIDAY MEN'S SCORES Army 66, NJIT 49
at Toronto -2	440 at Ottawa 35 Chicago 72 Anaheim	+195 +190 +142	Bellarmine 89, Midway 39 Delaware 94, Moravian 55
at St. Louis -2 Washington -2	00 Montreal 10 at Buffalo	+164 +172	Furman 73, Appalachian St. 65 High Point 67, SC State 65 Montana 104, Yellowstone Christian
at N.Y Islanders -1 Philadelphia -1 at Edmonton -1			Tennessee St. 70, IUPUI 44 Vermont 70, Brown 65
at Seattle -1	.11 Carolina .44 Columbus .40 Boston		DePaul at Louisville, late Loyola Chicago at Vanderbilt, late
Minnesota -1	.70 at Los Ange .25 at San Jos	eles +140	Murray St. at Memphis, late CS Northridge at N. Dakota St., late Green Bay at UMKC, late
COLLEGE FOOT		TURDAY IDERDOG	Prairie View at Boise St., late Milwaukee at Colorado, late
Army Bahamas Bowl	7 (35) Frida	at Navy y, Dec. 17	WOMEN'S AP TOP 25 FARED
Toledo 1 Cure Bowl	l0 (52) N	lid. Tenn.	No. 1 South Carolina (9-0) did not pla Next: vs. No. 8Maryland, Sunday.
Coastal Carolina 10 Boca Raton Bowl Appalachian St.	Saturday	N. Illinois y, Dec. 18 Kentucky	No. 2 NC State (9-1) beat Pittsburgh 98-54. Next: vs. Saint Mary's, Sunday. No. 3 UConn (5-2) did not play. Next:
New Mexico Bow		UTEP	UCLA, Saturday. No. 4 Stanford (5-2) did not play. Nex
Independence Bo BYU	owl 7 (54½)	UAB	vs. Pacific, Sunday. No. 5 Baylor (9-1) did not play. Next:
	rl 1½ (58½) E.I	Michigan	No. 13Michigan, Sunday, Dec. 19. No. 6 Arizona (8-0) did not play. Next: vs New Mexico, Sunday.
LA Bowl Oregon State New Orleans Bov	,	tah State	No. 7 Louisville (7-1) did not play. No. No. 14Kentucky, Sunday.
La-Lafayette Myrtle Beach Bo	5 (53½) wl Monday	Marshall , Dec. 20	No. 8 Maryland (9-2) did not play. New at No. 1South Carolina, Sunday.
Tulsa 9 Famous Idaho Po	½ (53) Old i tato Bowl Tue	Dominion e, Dec. 21	No. 9 Tennessee (8-0) did not play. Next: vs. Georgia St., Sunday. No. 10 Indiana (7-2) did not play. Next
Frisco Bowl	3 (59) K ½ (50) San	ent State Diego St.	at Ohio St., Sunday. No. 11 Texas (6-1) did not play. Next:
Armed Forces Bo Army 3	wl Wednesda 1½ (58½)	y, Dec. 22 Missouri	vs. Idaho, Saturday. No. 12 Iowa (5-2) did not play. Next: v
Frisco Football Cl Miami (Ohio)		., Dec. 23	UCF, Saturday, Dec. 18. No. 13 Michigan (9-1) did not play.
Gasparilla Bowl	1/2 (561/2)	UCF	Next: vs. Minnesota, Sunday. No. 14 Kentucky (6-2) did not play. Next: at No. 71 quisville. Sunday.
CFP Semifinal Co	3½ (58) C	ssic incinnati	Next: at No. 7Louisville, Sunday. No. 15 Iowa St. (9-1) did not play. Nex vs. N. Iowa, Sunday.
CFP Semifinal Or	ange Bowl	Michigan	No. 16 BYU (8-1) lost to Oklahoma 99-9 Next: vs. Washington State, Dec. 18.
NFL WEEK 14 FAVORITE S		SUNDAY IDERDOG	No. 17 South Florida (5-3) did not play Next: at VCU, Sunday.
at Cleveland 2 Dallas 4	½ (42½) E ½ (48)	Baltimore at Wash.	No. 18 Texas A&M (9-1) did not play. Next: at TCU, Sunday. No. 19 Duke (8-0) did not play. Next: v
at Kansas City 1		ksonville .as Vegas .t NY Jets	No. 1South Carolina, Wednesday. No. 20 Ohio St. (7-1) did not play. Nex
		t NY Jets Houston	vs. No. 9Indiana, Sunday. No. 21 Georgia (8-1) did not play. Nex
at Carolina 2	1/2 (411/2)	Atlanta	
at Carolina 2 at LA Chargers 9 at Denver 1	1½ (43) N 10 (42½)	Atlanta NY Giants Detroit	at No. 2NC State, Thursday, Dec. 16. No. 22 Notre Dame (8-2) did not play.
at Carolina 2 at LA Chargers 9 at Denver 1 at Tampa Bay 3 San Francisco 1	1½ (43) N 10 (42½) 1½ (53½) 1½ (48½) at 0	Atlanta NY Giants Detroit Buffalo Cincinnati	at No. 2NC State, Thursday, Dec. 16. No. 22 Notre Dame (8-2) did not play. Next: vs. Fort Wayne, Sunday. No. 23 Oregon St. (5-2) beat Monmou 72-58. Next: at Villanova, Sunday.
at Carolina 2 at LA Chargers 9 at Denver 1 at Tampa Bay 3 San Francisco 1 at Green Bay 1	1½ (43) N 10 (42½) 1½ (53½) ½ (48½) at (12 (43)	Atlanta NY Giants Detroit Buffalo	at No. 2NC State, Thursday, Dec. 16. No. 22 Notre Dame (8-2) did not play. Next: vs. Fort Wayne, Sunday. No. 23 Oregon St. (5-2) beat Monmou

NHL	NFL
EASTERN CONFERENCE	AMERICAN CONFERENCE
ATLANTIC GP W L OT PTS GF GA Florida 25 17 4 4 38 96 71	New England 9 4 0 .692 350 200
Tampa Bay 26 17 5 4 38 89 70 Toronto 28 18 8 2 38 88 71 Detroit 27 13 11 3 29 75 89	Buffalo 7 5 0 .583 336 196 Miami 6 7 0 .462 254 288 N.Y. Jets 3 9 0 .250 217 367
Boston 23 13 8 2 28 65 60 Buffalo 25 8 14 3 19 70 92	SOUTH W L T PCT PF PA Tennessee 8 4 0 .667 304 290
Ottawa 24 7 16 1 15 63 93 Montreal 28 6 19 3 15 61 98	Indianapolis 7 6 0 .538 371 283 Houston 2 10 0 .167 164 323
Washington 26 16 4 6 38 92 65	Jacksonville 2 10 0 .167 180 320 NORTH W L T PCT PF PA
Carolina 25 18 6 1 37 81 55 N.Y. Rangers 25 17 5 3 37 77 66 Pittsburgh 25 12 8 5 29 75 68	Baltimore 8 4 0 .667 282 260 Cincinnati 7 5 0 .583 331 267
Columbus 25 13 11 1 27 81 82 New Jersey 24 10 9 5 25 70 79	Cleveland 6 6 0 .500 254 267 Pittsburgh 6 6 1 .500 272 322 WEST W L T PCT PF PA
Philadelphia 24 8 12 4 20 56 82 N.Y. Islanders 22 6 11 5 17 46 68	Kansas City 8 4 0 .667 303 259 L.A. Chargers 7 5 0 .583 314 315
WESTERN CONFERENCE CENTRAL GP W L OT PTS GF GA	Denver 6 6 0 .500 237 218 Las Vegas 6 6 0 .500 274 312
Minnesota 26 19 6 1 39 101 74 St. Louis 26 14 8 4 32 90 75	NATIONAL CONFERENCE EAST W L T PCT PF PA
Nashville 26 15 10 1 31 77 73 Colorado 23 14 7 2 30 99 79 Winnipeg 26 13 9 4 30 79 72	Dallas 8 4 0 .667 353 267 Washington 6 6 0 .500 246 297
Dallas 24 13 9 2 28 68 68 Chicago 26 10 14 2 22 58 81	Philadelphia 6 7 0 .462 337 291 N.Y. Giants 4 8 0 .333 211 273
Arizona 25 5 18 2 12 44 93 PACIFIC GP W L OT PTS GF GA	SOUTH W L T PCT PF PA Tampa Bay 9 3 0 .750 377 270
Calgary 27 15 6 6 36 85 58 Anaheim 28 15 8 5 35 91 79	Atlanta 5 7 0 .417 216 332 Carolina 5 7 0 .417 236 253 New Orleans 5 7 0 .417 274 276
Edmonton 25 16 9 0 32 89 77 Vegas 25 15 10 0 30 86 77 San Jose 27 14 12 1 29 73 76	NORTH W L T PCT PF PA
Los Angeles 25 11 10 4 26 68 67 Vancouver 27 10 15 2 22 66 81	Green Bay 9 3 0 .750 283 242 Minnesota 6 7 0 .462 344 333 Chicago 4 8 0 .333 201 287
Seattle 26 9 15 2 20 73 93	Detroit 1 10 1 .125 203 316 WEST W L T PCT PF PA
NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per	Arizona 10 2 0 .833 343 224 L.A. Rams 8 4 0 .667 336 270
conference advance to playoffs.	San Francisco 6 6 0 .500 303 278 Seattle 4 8 0 .333 239 249
FRIDAY'S RESULTS N.Y. Rangers at Buffalo, late	WEEK 14 SUNDAY'S GAMES
Pittsburgh at Washington, late Nashville at New Jersey, late Detroit at Colorado, late	Atlanta at Carolina, 1p.m. Baltimore at Cleveland, 1p.m.
Florida at Arizona, late Philadelphia at Vegas, late	Dallas at Washington, 1p.m. Jacksonville at Tennessee, 1p.m.
Winnipeg at Vancouver, late	Las Vegas at Kansas City, 1p.m. New Orleans at N.Y. Jets, 1p.m. Seattle at Houston, 1p.m.
SATURDAY'S GAMES Tampa Bay at Ottawa, 1p.m. Anaheim at Pittsburgh, 7p.m.	Detroit at Denver, 4:05p.m. N.Y. Giants at L.A. Chargers, 4:05p.m.
Chicago at Toronto, 7p.m. Montreal at St. Louis, 7p.m.	Buffalo at Tampa Bay, 4:25p.m. San Francisco at Cincinnati, 4:25p.m. Chicago at Green Bay, 8:20p.m.
Washington at Buffalo, 7p.m. New Jersey at N.Y. Islanders, 7:30p.m.	Chicago at Green Bay, 8:20p.m. Off: Indianapolis, Miami, New England, Philadelphia
Philadelphia at Arizona, 9p.m. Boston at Calgary, 10p.m. Carolina at Edmonton, 10p.m.	MONDAY'S GAME
Columbus at Seattle, 10p.m. Dallas at San Jose, 10:30p.m.	L.A. Rams at Arizona, 8:15p.m. THURSDAY'S RESULT
Minnesota at Los Angeles, 10:30p.m.	Minnesota 36, Pittsburgh 28
THURSDAY'S RESULTS Chicago 2, Montreal 0 Tampa Bay 5, Toronto 3	WEEK 15 THURSDAY, DEC. 16 Kansas City at L.A. Chargers, 8:20p.m.
Anaheim 2, Columbus 1, SO Nashville 4, N.Y. Islanders 3	SATURDAY, DEC. 18
St. Louis 6, Detroit 2 Carolina 2, Calgary 1, OT Boston 3, Edmonton 2	Las Vegas at Cleveland, 4:30p.m. New England at Indianapolis, 8:20p.m.
Winnipeg 3, Seattle 0 Minnesota 5, San Jose 2	SUNDAY, DEC. 19 Arizona at Detroit, 1p.m.
Los Angeles 4, Dallas 0	Carolina at Buffalo, 1p.m. Dallas at N.Y. Giants, 1p.m.
COLLEGE BASKETBALL	Houston at Jacksonville, 1p.m. N.Y. Jets at Miami, 1p.m.
MEN'S AP TOP 25 FARED No. 1 Purdue (8-1) did not play. Next: at NC State, Sunday.	Tennessee at Pittsburgh, 1p.m. Washington at Philadelphia, 1p.m. Atlanta at San Francisco, 4:05p.m.
No. 2 Baylor (8-0) did not play. Next: vs. No. 6Villanova, Sunday.	Cincinnati at Denver, 4:05p.m. Green Bay at Baltimore, 4:25p.m.
No. 3 Duke (7-1) did not play. Next: vs. SC State, Tuesday, Dec. 14.	Seattle at L.A. Rams, 4:25p.m. New Orleans at Tampa Bay, 8:20p.m.
No. 4 UCLA (8-1) did not play. Next: at Marquette, Saturday. No. 5 Gonzaga (8-2) did not play. Next:	MONDAY, DEC. 20 Minnesota at Chicago, 8:15p.m.
vs. Washington, Sunday. No. 6 Villanova (7-2) did not play. Next:	LATE THURSDAY: MINNESOTA 36, PITTSBURGH 28
at No. 2Baylor, Sunday. No. 7 Texas (6-2) did not play. Next: vs.	Pittsburgh 0 0 7 21 - 28 Minnesota 6 17 6 7 - 36
ArkPine Bluff, Tuesday. No. 8 Kansas (7-1) did not play. Next: vs. Missouri, Saturday.	First Quarter Min: Jefferson 14pass from Cousins (kick failed) 3:21
No. 9 Alabama (7-1) did not play. Next: vs. No. 14Houston, Saturday.	(kick failed), 3:31. Second Quarter Min: FG G.Joseph 38, 14:43.
No. 10 Kentucky (7-1) did not play. Next: at Notre Dame, Saturday. No. 11 Arizona (8-0) did not play. Next:	Min: Cook 29run (G.Joseph kick), 9:55. Min: Cook 7run (G.Joseph kick), 2:20.
at Illinois, Saturday. No. 12 Arkansas (9-0) did not play.	Third Quarter Min: FG G.Joseph 42, 9:36. Min: FG G.Joseph 25, 6:15.
Next: at Oklahoma, Saturday. No. 13 Tennessee (6-1) did not play.	Pit: Harris 3pass from Roethlisberger (Boswell kick), 2:11.
Next: vs. UNC-Greensboro, Saturday. No. 14 Houston (8-1) did not play. Next: at No. 9Alabama, Saturday.	Fourth Quarter Pit: Harris 1run (Boswell kick), 14:49.
No. 15 UConn (8-2) did not play. Next: vs. St. Bonaventure, Saturday.	Pit: Washington 30 pass from Roethlis- berger (pass failed), 12:11. Min: Osborn 62 pass from Cousins
No. 16 USC (9-0) did not play. Next: vs. Long Beach St., Sunday.	(G.Joseph kick), 10:51. Pit: Freiermuth 15pass from Roethlis-
No. 17 Iowa St. (9-0) did not play. Next: vs. Jackson St., Sunday. No. 18 Auburn (7-1) did not play. Next:	berger (D.Johnson pass from Roethlisberger), 4:14.
vs. Nebraska, Saturday. No. 19 Michigan St. (8-2) did not play.	A: 66,718. TEAM STATS PIT MIN
Next: vs. Penn St., Saturday. No. 20 Florida (7-2) did not play. Next:	First downs 22 22 Total net yards 375 458
at Maryland, Sunday. No. 21 Ohio St. (7-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 22 Wisconsin, Saturday.	Rushes-yards 24-106 36-242 Passing 269 216 Punt returns 1-8 2-31
No. 22 Wisconsin (8-1) did not play. Next: at No. 210hio St., Saturday.	Kickoff returns 3-62 0-0 Interceptions ret. 2-45 1-18
No. 23 Seton Hall (8-1) did not play. Next: vs. Rutgers, Sunday. No. 24 BYU (8-1) did not play. Next: at	Comp-att-int 28-40-1 14-31-2 Sacked-yards lost 5-39 0-0
Creighton, Saturday. No. 25 LSU (8-0) did not play. Next: at	Punts 6-41.0 3-48.667 Fumbles-lost 1-0 0-0 Penalties-yards 11-95 10-92
Georgia Tech, Saturday. FRIDAY MEN'S SCORES	Time of possession 29:32 30:28
Army 66, NJIT 49 Bellarmine 89, Midway 39	RUSHING: Pittsburgh, Harris 20-94, D.Johnson 1-7, Roethlisberger 1-5, Clay-
Delaware 94, Moravian 55	pool 1-2, Snell 1-(minus 2). Minnesota, Cook 27-205. Mattison 6-27. Cousins

Cook 27-205, Mattison 6-27, Cousins 2-14. Jefferson 1-(minus 4). **PASSING:** Pittsburgh, Roethlisberger 28-40-1-308. Minnesota, Cousins 14-31-**RECEIVING:** Pittsburgh, Claypool 8-93, McCloud 6-32, D.Johnson 5-76, Washington 4-65. Harris 3-10. Freiermuth 2-32. Minnesota, Jefferson 7-79, Osborn 3-83, Conklin 2-20, Cook 1-17, Herndon MISSED FIELD GOALS: Pittsburgh Boswell 49. Minnesota, G.Joseph 53. **OBE SHOOTOUT**

1st of 3rds; At Tiburon Golf Course, Naples, Fla.; 7,382 yards, Par 72

PGA CHAMPIONS QUALIFYING

4th of 4 rds., TPC Tampa Bay, Lutz, Fla.;

Thongchai Jaidee 68-72-63-67—270 -14 Roger Rowland 72-70-68-65—275 -9

WTA OPEN ANGERS ARENA LOIRE

Arena LoireAngers, France, outdoors

WOMEN'S SINGLES, QUARTERFINALS

Ricardo Gonzalez 67-69-73-68-277

Leishman/Day

Kuchar/English

Palmer/Jones Kisner/Homa

McDowell/Conners

Na/Kokrak Watson/Thompson

Swafford/Harman

Poulter/Howell III

6.898 vards: Par 71

David Branshaw

Horschel/Burns Zalatoris/O'Hair

Snedeker/Lee

Rob Labritz

Tom Gillis

Guy Boros

Mark Brown

Ken Tanigawa

Michael Muehr Skip Kendall

Mario Tiziani

Yue Yuan d.

Jana Fett, 7-5, 3-6, 6-0. Natalia Vikhlyantseva d.

Vitalia Diatchenko d.

#4Clara Burel, walkover.

Mallaurie Noel, 6-1, 7-5. #2Zhang Shuai d.

#8Kristina Mladenovic, 6-3, 6-2.

28-28-56 -16 29-28-57 -15

29-28-57 -15

32-27-59 -13 30-29-59 -13

31-29-60 -12

31-30-61 -11 31-30-61 -11

29-32-61 -11

31-30-61 -11 32-30-62 -10

31-31-62 -10

67-67-68-68-270 -14

65-69-70-72-276

66-73-71-67-277

70-67-71-69-277

70-66-69-72—277 72-68-71-67—278

66-72-71-69-278

70-69-69-70—278 70-68-68-72—278



Formula 1 race car driver Al Unser is seen in 1993, Unser, one of only four drivers to win the Indianapolis 500 a record

FRIDAY'S RESULT Brentford 2, Watford 1

SATURDAY'S MATCHES Man City vs. Wolverhampton, 7:30a.m. Arsenal vs. Southampton, 10a.m. Chelsea vs. Leeds, 10a.m. Liverpool vs. Aston Villa, 10a.m. Norwich vs. Man United, 12:30p.m.

MLS CUP CHAMPIONSHIP SATURDAY'S FINAL. Provide #4 New York City FC at #4 Portland, 3 p.m.

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

16 15 15

15

Man City Liverpool

West Ham Tottenham

Man United

Brentford

Brighton Aston Villa

Southampton Watford

Leicester

Everton Crystal Palace

Leeds

Burnley

Newcastle Norwich

Arsenal Wolverhampton

GP W D L GF GA PT

15 11 2 2 32 9 35 15 10 4 1 44 12 34 15 10 3 2 35 9 33 15 8 3 4 28 19 27 14 8 1 5 16 17 25

15 7 3 5 25 24 24 15 7 2 6 18 22 23 15 6 3 6 12 13 21

6 21 22 20

31 10

4 8 3 14 16 20 6 1 8 21 24 19 5 4 6 23 27 19

5 3 7 19 25 18 3 7 5 19 21 16

15 3 7 5 15 22 16 15 3 7 5 15 22 16 15 3 7 5 14 21 16 16 4 1 11 21 31 13 14 1 7 6 14 21 10 15 1 7 7 17 30 10

Brighton vs. Tottenham. 9a.m. Burnley vs. West Ham, 9a.m. Leicester vs. Newcastle, 9a.m. Crystal Palace vs. Everton, 11:30a.m.

Brentford vs. Man United, 2:30p.m. Norwich vs. Aston Villa, 2:45p.m. Man City vs. Leeds, 3p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 15 Brighton vs. Wolverhampton, 2:30p.m. Burnley vs. Watford, 2:30n.m. Crystal Palace vs. Southampton, 2:30 p.m. Arsenal vs. West Ham, 3p.m.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

SATURDAY'S GAME, E. Rutherford, N.J. Army (8-3) vs. Navy (3-8), 3p.m.

NCAA FCS PLAYOFFS FRIDAY'S QUARTERFINALS Montana at James Madison, late SATURDAY'S OUARTERFINALS ETSU at North Dakota St., noon South Dakota St at Villanova, 2p.m. Montana St. at Sam Houston, 8:30p.m.

NCAA DIVISION II PLAYOFFS SATURDAY'S SEMIFINALS

Shepherd vs. Valdosta St., 3:30p.m. Ferris St. vs. Colorado Mines, noon.

NCAA DIVISION III PLAYOFFS SATURDAY'S SEMIFINALS Mary Hardin-Baylor vs Wis.-Whitewater, 3p.m.
North Central vs. Mount Union, noon.

UPCOMING BOWL GAMES FRIDAY, DEC. 17 Bahamas BowlNassau, Bahamas Toledo (7-5) vs. Mid. Tenn. (6-6), noon Cure Bowl, Orlando, Fla.

N. Illinois (9-4) vs. C. Carolina (10-2). 6 n.m.

SATURDAY, DEC. 18 Boca Raton Bowl, Boca Raton, Fla. W. Ky (8-5) vs. Appal. St. (10-3), 11a.m. Celebration Bowl, Atlanta SC St. (6-5) vs. Jackson St. (11-1), noon New Mexico Bowl, Albuquerque Fresno St. (9-3) vs. UTEP (7-5), 2:15p.m. Independence Bowl, Shreveport, La. #12BYU (10-2) vs. UAB (8-4), 3:30p.m. LendingTree Bowl, Mobile, Ala. E. Michigan (7-5) vs. Liberty (7-5), 5:45 p.m. LA Bowl, Inglewood, Calif.
Oregon St. (7-5) vs. Utah St. (10-3), 7:30 p.m. New Orleans Bowl, New Orleans

MONDAY, DEC. 20 Myrtle Beach Bowl, Conway, S.C. Old Dominion (6-6) vs. Tulsa (6-6), 2:30 p.m.

#16 La-Laf. (12-2) vs. Marshall (7-5), 9:15 p.m.

TUESDAY, DEC. 21 Famous Idaho Potato, Boise, Idaho Kent St (7-6) vs. Wyoming (6-6), 3:30 p.m. **Frisco Bowl, Frisco, Texas** #24 UTSA (12-1) vs. S. Diego St. (11-2). 7p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 22 Armed Forces Bowl, Fort Worth, Texas Missouri (6-6) vs. Army (8-3), 8p.m. THURSDAY, DEC. 23

Frisco Football Classic, Frisco, Texas Miami (7-5) vs. N. Texas (6-6), 3:30p.m. **Gasparilla Bowl, Tampa, Fla.** UCF (8-4) vs. Florida (6-6), 7p.m.

FRIDAY, DEC. 24 Hawaii Bowl, Honolulu Memphis (6-6) vs. Hawaii (6-7), 8p.m.

SATURDAY, DEC. 25 Camellia Bowl, Montgomery, Ala. Ball State (6-6) vs. Ga. St. (7-5), 2:30 p.m.

MONDAY, DEC. 27 **Quick Lane Bowl** Nevada (8-4) vs. W. Mich. (7-5), 11a.m. Military Bowl, Annapolis, Md. Bos Coll. (6-6) vs. E. Carolina (7-5), 2:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, DEC. 28 Birmingham Bowl, Birmingham, Ala. #21 Houston (11-2) vs. Auburn (6-6), noon SERVPRO First Responder Bowl, Dallas Air Force (9-3) vs. Louisville (6-6), 3:15 p.m. Liberty Bowl, emphis, Tenn. Miss St. (7-5) vs. TX Tech (6-6), 6:45p.m. Holiday Bowl, San Diego UCLA (8-4) vs. NC State (9-3), 8p.m. **Guaranteed Rate Bowl. Phoe** Minnesota (8-4) vs. W. Va (6-6), 10:15 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 29 WEDNESDAY, DEC. 29 Femway Bowl, Boston Virginia (6-6) vs. SMU (8-4), 11a.m. Pinstripe Bowl, New York City Va. Tech (6-6) vs. Maryland (6-6), 2:15 p.m. Cheez-It Bowl, Orlando, Fla. #19 Clemson (9-3) vs. lowa St. (7-5), 5:45 p.m. Alamo Bowl, San Antonio #14 Okla. (10-2) vs. #15 Oregon (10-3), 9:15 a.m.

THURSDAY, DEC. 30 Duke's Mayo Bowl, Charlotte, N.C. S. Carolina (6-6) vs. N. Carolina (6-6), 11:30 a.m. Music City Bowl, Nashville Purdue (8-4) vs. Tennessee (7-5), 3p.m. Peach Bowl, Atlanta #11 Mich St. (10-2) vs. #13 Pitt (11-2), 7 p.m. Las Vegas Bowl, Las Vegas Wisconsin (8-4) vs. Arizona St. (8-4), 10:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, DEC. 31

College Football Playoff Semifinal (Orange Bowl), Miami Gardens, Fla. #2 Michigan (12-1) vs. #3 Georgia (12-1), 7:30 p.m.

College Football Playoff Semifinal (Cotton Bowl Classic), Arlington, Texas #1Alabama (12-1) vs. #4Cincinnati (13-0), 7:30p.m. Gator Bowl, Jacksonville, Fla. #20Wake Forest (10-3) vs. #23Texas A&M (8-4), 10a.m. Sun Bowl, El Paso, Texas Wash. St. (7-5) vs. Miami (7-5), noon **Arizona Bowl, Tucson, Ariz.** C. Mich. (8-4) vs. Boise St. (7-5), 4:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JAN. 1 Outback Bowl, Tampa, Fla. #22 Arkansas (8-4) vs. Penn St. (7-5), noon Citrus Bowl, Orlando, Fla. #17 lowa (10-3) vs. #25 Kentucky (9-3), 1 p.m. Fiesta Bowl, Glendale, Ariz. #5Notre Dame (11-1) vs. #9Oklahoma St. (11-2), 1p.m. **Rose Bowl, Pasadena, Calif.** #7 Ohio St. (10-2) vs. #10 Utah (10-3), 5 p.m. Sugar Bowl. New Orleans

TUESDAY, JAN, 4 Texas Bowl, Houston LSU (6-6) vs. Kansas St. (7-5), 9p.m.

Semifinal winners, 8p.m.

#6 Baylor (11-2) vs. #8 Miss. (10-2), 8:30 p.m.

MONDAY, JAN, 8 CFP Championship Game, Indianapolis

four times, died Thursday. AP FILE

AL UNSER 1939-2021

Indy legend 'Big Al' dies

By Jenna Fryer Associated Press

Al Unser, one of only four drivers to win the Indianapolis 500 a record four times, died Thursday following a long illness. He

Unser died at his home in Chama, New Mexico, with his wife, Susan, by his side, Indianapolis Motor Speedway said early Friday. He had been battling cancer for 17 years.

"My heart is so saddened. My father passed away last night." son Al Unser Jr., himself a two-time Indy 500 winner, posted on social media. "He was a Great man and even a Greater Father. Rest In Peace Dad!"

Unser is the third member of one of America's most famed racing families to die in 2021. His oldest brother, three-time Indy 500 winner Bobby Unser, died in May, and Bobby Unser Jr. passed six weeks after his father.

Known as "Big Al" once his own son made a name for himself in racing, Unser is part of an elite club of four-time winners of "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing." Unser won the Indy 500 in 1970, 1971, 1978 and 1987, and is the only driver in history to have both a sibling and a child also win one of the biggest races in the world.

His final victory at age 47 made him the oldest winner in Indy 500 history. Unser won three Indy car national championships over his career and 39 victories. He led 644 total laps at Indianapolis.

The Unser family combined for a record nine wins in the Indy 500; Al Jr. won the Indy 500 twice - in 1992 and 1994. Coincidentally, Al Unser, Al Unser Jr. and Bobby Unser all won their final Indy 500s driving for

Roger Penske. Unser earlier this year was at Indianapolis Motor Speedway to welcome Helio Castroneves as the newest member of the four-time winners club. Unser achieved the feat after A.J. Foyt, and Rick Mears won his fourth in 1991. Castroneves won in May to become the first new member in 30 years.

"Some days the race track smiles on you and some days, you got it the other way," Unser said during the July celebration. "It's not always that you're going to think you're going to win because your chances are very slim. There's 32 other guys who want it as bad as you do."

Both Castroneves and two-time Indv 500 winner Takuma Sato lauded Unser on social media, with Sato calling Unser's speech at the May winner's ceremony "very funny and so charming.

"Huge respect," Sato said.

The youngest of four racing brothers, Unser was born in in Albuquerque in 1939 to a family of hardcore racers.

His father Jerry Unser and two uncles, Louis and Joe, were also drivers. Beginning in 1926 the family began competing in the Pikes Peak International Hill Climb, an annual road race held in Colorado. Al's oldest brother, Jerry, became the first Unser to qualify for the Indianapolis 500 in 1958; he was killed in a crash during practice the following year.

Unser began racing himself in 1957 when he was 18, but competed mostly in sprint cars. He made it to Indy in 1965 and was part of the rookie class with future Indy 500 winners Mario Andretti (1969) and Gordon Johncock (1973, 1984).

IN BRIEF

Harbaugh named the AP coach of the year

News services

Michigan's Harbaugh is The Associated Press college football coach of the year after leading the Wolverines to their first Big Ten title in 17 years and a berth in the College Football Playoff.

Harbaugh is the first Michigan coach to win the AP Coach of the Year Award presented by Regions Bank, and the first from the Big Ten since Penn State's Joe Paterno in

"It's a tremendous reflection on the entire staff, players," Harbaugh told the AP. "Everybody shares in it. A rising tide lifts all ships." He received 22 of 53

first-place votes and 103 points from a panel of AP Top 25 voters to finish ahead of Cincinnati's Luke Fickell, who had 16 firstplace votes and 88 points. Baylor's Dave Aranda

was third and Michigan State's Mel Tucker was fourth. Georgia's Kirby Smart was fifth with a firstplace vote and Utah State's Blake Anderson was sixth. receiving three first-place votes.

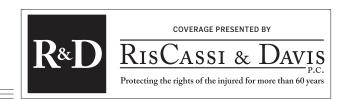
■ Virginia didn't have to extend its search for a new football coach beyond the Atlantic Coast Conference as the Cavaliers announced Friday they had tabbed longtime Clemson offensive coordinator Tony Elliott to fill their vacancy.

Golf: Jason Day and Marc Leishman had 12 birdies, two eagles and finished one shot short of the record for the scramble format, posting a 16-under 56 that gave the Australian duo a one-shot lead ahead of Corey Conners and Graeme McDowell, and Harris English and Matt Kuchar on Friday in the QBE Shootout.

NBA: Pacers coach Rick Carlisle missed Friday night's game against the Mavericks after testing positive for COVID-19. ... The NBA fined Wizards forward Kyle Kuzma \$15,000 for directing an obscene gesture toward a fan and Grizzlies guard-forward Dillon Brooks \$25,000 for aggressively confronting a game official and failing to leave the court in a timely manner upon his ejection.

UCONN

COURANT.COM/SPORTS



COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Bowl-bound Army looks to beat Navy for 5th time in 6 games

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.

— The Cadets and Midshipmen who play in Saturday's Army-Navy game were no more than toddlers during the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Still, they understand the significance of remembering that day when they meet this weekend at MetLife Stadium in the 122nd renewal of one of college football's biggest rivalries.

"It is awesome to be here to honor those firemen and policemen and people that were there," Navy senior linebacker Diego Fagot said. "To play in such an environment at MetLife, it's so very humbling and I am honored to be a part of it."

Army (8-3) has put together a run in the series since Jeff Monken took over as coach in 2014 and started to rebuild a program that ended up losing 14 in a row to Navy. The Black Knights have won four of the last five, including a 15-0 win last year when the game was played at West Point because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Most of the games have been close.

Monken was an assistant at

Navy under Paul Johnson from 2002-07. He said returning to the game in '14 was an experience.

"You walk out and there's just this feeling like 'This is it,' " said Monken, who is headed to the Armed Forces Bowl with the Black Knights to face Missouri on Dec. 22.

Beating Navy is the only goal this week. Losing?

"Devastating! Terrible season!" Monken said.

This will be the final game of the season for Navy (3-8). Ken Niumatalolo's team is facing its 11th bowl-bound team, a group that includes Cincinnati and Notre Dame.

"This will be the legacy we will leave with the program," Navy senior Chance Warren said.

Fagot, playing in his fourth Army-Navy game, said the one feeling he has always had is that everyone in the country is rooting for the game.

"I don't know if it is specific to
Army or Navy but they are watching the game, they are encouraging and it's very patriotic," he
said. "You can definitely feel the
love and the honor for that game.
Ultimately we play on the gridiron and then we serve with each
other, so it is special."

Men

from Page 1

the missing link for the offense when everybody gets healthy. He could be a sharpshooter for a team that lacks a lot of consistent shooters, and ball handler on a team that doesn't have more than a few. If UConn wants to survive the next few weeks and make a deep tournament run, it will need Hawkins to mature quickly.

"We're relying on him right now with all the injures more than probably fair to him as a young guy," said UConn coach Dan Hurley.

Hawkins has the talent and the passion to be a major factor. Now's the time to showcase who he truly is and why fans, teammates and coaches rave about

"He's going to be a great player," Hurley said. "He's going to be next in the small line of wings that have played here that have done major things. ... In every successful person's story there is the struggles, you learn, you grow and achieve greatness. Will it be tomorrow? I hope so, if not tomorrow, it's coming."

Martin and Sanogo updates

Both players are making progress, with Martin ahead of schedule. According to Hurley, Martin practiced on Friday. He's a gametime decision for the game against St. Bonaventure.

"(Martin) did a little bit of everything, we will see how the injury is overnight," Hurley said. Sanogo is making progress, but

Sanogo is making progress, but isn't quite ready yet.

"He's ramping up some things in terms of movement," Hurley

in terms of movement," Hurley said. "It's one of those things we are being really careful and we want to get him back and keep him in the lineup."

According to Hurley, there is a chance Sanogo will play in the Providence game on Dec.18.

Here's everything you need to

Here's everything you need to know about Saturday's matchup.

The basics

No. 15 UConn vs. St. Bonaventure **Time:** 3:30 p.m., Saturday **Place:** Prudential Center, Newark,

Series: 2-1 UConn leads Last meeting: UConn won, 95-78, on Jan. 3, 2003, in the Hartford Civic Center TV: ESPN2

Live Stream: ESPN+ app

other, so it is special."

Radio: UConn Sports Network
(Mike Crispino, Wayne Norman).

Sirius-85. SXM-app-85. 97.9-ESPN Hartford. WILI-1400-AM (Willimantic). WATR-1320-AM (Waterbury). WAVZ-1300-AM (New Haven). WGCH-1490-AM (Greenwich).

St. Bonaventure (8-1) probable starters, sixth man

Dominick Welch, G, 6-5, Sr.; Quadry Adams, G, 6-3,R-Fr.; Jaren Holmes, G, 6-4 Sr.; Osun Osunniyi, F/C, 6-10, Sr.; Jalen Adaway, F, 6-5,R-Sr.; Linton Brown, G, 6-5 R-So.,

No. 15 UConn (8-2) probable starters, sixth man

R.J. Cole, G, 6-1, GS; Isaiah Whaley, F, 6-9, GS; Jordan Hawkins, G, 6-5, Fr.; Akok Akok, F, 6-9, R-Jr.; Andre Jackson, G/F, 6-6, So.; Jalen Gaffney, G, 6-3, Jr.

The matchup

UConn's offense: The Huskies need to make open 3s. In their game against West Virginia, they went 3-for-21 from 3, missing a ton of quality looks from behind the arc.

UConn's defense: The Huskies need to shut down Holmes and force St. Bonaventure to commit turnovers. The Bonnies commit just 9.9 turnovers per game, which ranks 14th in NCAA Division I.

St. Bonaventure offense: Holmes, the Bonnies secondleading scorer, puts up 17.2 points per game. He will face more defensive pressure with leading scorer Kyle Lofton out with an

ankle injury. **St. Bonaventure defense:**UConn needs to limit its turnovers against a team that doesn't make

a ton of mistakes. **UConn's key:** Support Cole on the offensive side and make the

Player to watch: Hawkins. UConn's lack of offensive firepower outside of Cole is very real. The Huskies need him to grow up fast.

About St. Bonaventure's coach:
Mark Schmidt has been coaching
the Bonnies for 15 years and is
their all-time wins leader.
St. Bonaventure mascot:. The
mascot is a wolf, chosen in 1999.
Famous alumni: NBA Hall of

Shreyas Laddha can be reached at sladdha@courant.com.

Famer Bob Lanier.

UCONN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Next up for Huskies: UCLA

By Alexa Philippou Hartford Courant

Following Thursday's 57-44 loss to Georgia Tech — the first time the program has fallen to an unranked team since 2012 — the No. 3 UConn women's basketball team (5-2, 1-0 Big East) will look to right the ship against UCLA in the Never Forget Tribute Classic in Newark, N.J., on Saturday.

The event, which raises money for a 9/11-related charity, is a doubleheader with the UConn men, who play St. Bonaventure at 3:30 p.m.

UConn, which hasn't lost back-to-back games since 1993, could suit up with as few as eight players once more with Paige Bueckers (knee), Nika Mühl (foot), Azzi Fudd (foot) out. While Aubrey Griffin (back/ankle/leg) was a game-time decision Thursday, coach Geno Auriemma didn't seem optimistic that she'd see the floor this weekend. Also, Piath Gabriel didn't travel to Atlanta due to an academic obligation, according to the school.

UCLA was ranked No. 20 in Associated Press preseason poll but has since lost multiple players (including Gina Conti, Emily Bessoir and Angela Dugalic) to injury. In all, just eight players have taken the floor for the Bruins this season.

The Bruins enter the contest 5-2 with their two losses to Kent St. (75-69) and South Dakota State (76-66). They previously beat Virginia (69-57) and St. John's (73-65).

Here's what else you need to know about the matchup.

Site: Prudential Center, Newark, N.J. Time: 1 p.m. Series: UConn leads, 6-0 Last meeting: No. 2 UConn 69, No. 20 UCLA 61, March 29, 2019, in



UConn coach Geno Auriemma yells to players during the first half against Georgia Tech on Thursday in Atlanta. **JOHN BAZEMORE/AP**

Albany, N.Y. (Sweet 16) **TV:** ABC (Ryan Ruocco, Rebecca
Lobo, Holly Rowe) **Radio:** UConn IMG Sports Network
on 97.9 ESPN (Bob Joyce, Debbie
Fiske)

UCLA probable starters, sixth man

Ilmar'l Thomas, F, 5-10, Gr.; Charisma Osborne, G, 5-9, Jr.; Natalie Chou, G, 6-1, Gr.; Jaelynn Penn, G, 5-10, Gr.; Dominique Onu, G, 5-9, R-Fr.; Kayla Owens, G, 6-1, R-Sr.

UConn probable starters, sixth man

Christyn Williams, G, 5-11, Sr.; Olivia Nelson-Ododa, F, 6-5, Sr.; Evina Westbrook, G, 6-0, R-Sr.; Aaliyah Edwards, F, 6-3, So.; Dorka Juhász, F, 6-5, Gr.; Caroline Ducharme, G, 6-2, Fr.

The matchup

UConn's offense: Struggled mightily without Bueckers and Mühl Thursday, shooting just 31%, committing 16 turnovers and going 2-15 from 3. Williams was the top

scorer with 13 points, but she needs to do more than that for the Huskies to win.

UConn's defense: The Huskies' looked decent most of the night, holding Georgia Tech to 38% shooting. The fourth quarter was the only one where they allowed more than 15 points.

DCLA's offense: They've only played one Power 5 team (Virginia) but UCLA is averaging a healthy 77.1 points per game on 46.8 percent shooting (and an impressive 39.8% on 3s). Thomas, a transfer from Cincinnati whom UConn previously faced in the AAC, leads the team with 19.1 points per game on 60.8% shooting, followed by Osborne's 18.5. Chou is a sharp-shooter from 3 (46.7%), while Osborne can get going from there too (39.5%).
UCLA's defense: The Bruins average 60.1 points allowed per game (39.2%)

UCLA's defense: The Bruins average 60.1 points allowed per game (39.2% shooting, 37.7% on 3s). They're particularly good on the defensive glass, where they collect 79.4% of their misses, the best mark in the country per Her Hoops Stats. Osborne, Penn and Owens are the top rebounders.

UConn keys: Offensive execution and cut down on dumb turnovers. Get a semblance of an insideout game going. Defense and rebounding, try to get out into transition.

Players to watch: Williams and Westbrook need to get going from behind the arc after combining for just two made 3s at Georgia Tech.

About UCLA's coach: Cori Close enters this game with a 220—112 record at UCLA, where the Bruins have made three Sweet 16s and one Elite Eight since she arrived in 2011.

UCLA's mascot: Joe and Josie Bruin Famous alumni: Actor James Franco, actress Gabrielle Union, baseball legend Jackie Robinson

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Women

from Page 1

gives you chances to be in position to win the game, but it's not going to win the game for you." While the Huskies are soul searching on offense, it is a necessity, really a baseline, that they play to their strengths, which are right now on defense and occasionally on the glass. The good news is that, prior to Thursday, Auriemma actually said that he's been pleased with how the team has improved on the defensive end since its season opener versus Arkansas and on the boards since the South Carolina game.

The more the Huskies do both of those things, the more easy scoring opportunities they'll get in transition, too.

Guards need to step up

With only three guards available Thursday (and no true point guards), Christyn Williams and Evina Westbrook were tasked with carrying a large portion of the offensive burden. The two combined for seven of UConn's 16 turnovers, most of which felt unforced. They had trouble creating their own offense when UConn needed a bucket, and when they were able to get shots off, they weren't very efficient. Williams fared better when she was able to get to the basket, but the two combined for 2-for-12 shooting on

Caroline Ducharme is a freshman so expectations are lower for her, but her scoreless night from the arc didn't do UConn any favors, either.

It's undoubtedly brutal that both UConn's point guards and two of its best perimeter shooters are out, and asking seniors Westbrook and Williams to play in positions they aren't well suited for isn't ideal. If

UConn wants to have a semblance of an offense moving forward, Williams and Westbrook need to do their best to help ensure it isn't as "disorganized" and "disheveled" as Auriemma described it on Thursday.

Post players struggling

After some nice flashes from Olivia Nelson-Ododa, Aaliyah Edwards and Dorka Juhász over the past three games, Edwards and Juhász, in particular, didn't meet the call Thursday. Nelson-Ododa was relatively solid, finishing with a 12-point, 10-rebound outing for her second straight double-double. Her having to sit in foul trouble at the end of the third quarter did not help UConn by any means.

Though UConn did a decent job in the paint and on the glass in the first half, those were areas they struggled with in the second, allowing the Yellow Jacket bigs to assert themselves. Edwards and Juhász went 1-for-10 from the field and combined for 10 rebounds against Georgia Tech. In the final 20 minutes, the duo had zero points and three rebounds.

Edwards in particular seems to be going through a rough patch. She finished scoreless and, in one memorable moment, uncharacteristically missed a breakaway layup with two minutes to go in the third that would've given UConn a three-point lead.

A bright spot of the loss was that Amari DeBerry had a great eight minutes in her debut for UConn, finishing with four points and three rebounds. It will be interesting to see if Auriemma gives her more time moving forward.

No time to give up

This one starts from the top down. Auriemma claims to be a realist. With that lens he proclaimed he doesn't believe the team's problems on offense can be solved, at least with its current limitations. "How do you turn it around?"

"How do you turn it around?" Auriemma said. "The easy answer would be I go to practice, and I go 'alright, we need to turn this around.' And then all the drills that we're going to do, 'we're doing this so we can turn this around.' And there's got to be a response of 'Yeah, we are going to turn it around.' And right now, it's not there."

Where does that leave the

Where does that leave the Huskies? Losing every game until UConn gets some combination of Fudd, Mühl, Griffin and Bueckers return?

An optimist's take would be this: UConn's had barely any practice time to figure out how to best operate without Bueckers and Mühl. Georgia Tech's defense is one of the best in the country. Despite a rough 30 minutes, UConn was still tied going into the fourth quarter. The game was ugly but winnable. If UConn can get through UCLA and Louisville and win at least one game, that could be considered a win. After the holidays, some of those sidelined players may start to play again.

It bears reminding that, while UConn's fourth-quarter collapse versus top-ranked South Carolina was cause for concern, they played a great three periods up until that point. And we've seen Williams, Westbrook and Edwards be better than this. They just need to tap back into that.

Auriemma may be right — some of the team's problems may be unfixable — but entering games scared to lose or convinced they'll fail doesn't seem like it will help the situation. There's plenty of basketball left to be played and, assuming UConn's injured players eventually return, they may very well be able to compete for the same goals they've had all along come March.

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Did you know?

On wet roads in the winter, at a speed of 60mph, it takes a car equipped with good snow tires approximately 181 feet to stop. A car with all-weather tires, under the same conditions, will take 215 feet to come to a full stop.

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NATIONAL SPORTS REPORT

SHORTS

Pro Bowl WR Thomas dies at 33



Demaryius Thomas overcame a troubled childhood. He managed to shine as a receiver in Georgia Tech's run-oriented offense. By the time his NFL career was over, he had earned five straight Pro Bowl honors and a Super Bowl ring with the Broncos. The football world mourned Friday for Thomas,

who died in his suburban Atlanta home at the age of 33 less than six months after officially announcing his retirement. Tim Tebow, who delivered perhaps the most famous pass of Thomas' career, wrote on Twitter that he "woke up and saw the really devastating news about my teammate and friend." "So many are going to remember him for his athletic ability," Tebow said, "but I'll be remembering him for his kindness, his smile that would light up a room, and the love he had for those in his life." Thomas was found dead in his home Thursday night, said Officer Tim Lupo, public information officer for the police department in Roswell, Georgia. "Preliminary information is that his death stems from a medical issue, and our investigators currently have no reason to believe otherwise," Lupo said.

Vikings hang on to playoff hopes



After yet another harrowing finish, head coach Mike Zimmer, pictured, didn't attempt to downplay his exasperation with the way the Vikings have perpetually let large leads vanish and found themselves in precarious end-ofgame situations. The Vikings were

ahead by 23 points at halftime Thursday night. Even as they nudged their advantage to 29-0 late in the third quarter, they frittered away highly favorable field position and had to settle for field goals when touchdowns truly would have put the Steelers away. The angst hovered in the stadium all the way through the final snap. The Steelers were within 36-28 with 12 yards and a 2-point conversion needed to tie. Ben Roethlisberger's pass hit the hands of tight end Pat Freiermuth and fell to the end zone turf after the well-timed arrival of safeties Harrison Smith and Xavier Woods to give the Vikings a must-have victory. "I'm trying to teach these guys how to finish," Zimmer said. The Vikings (6-7) remained very much alive in the crowd of competitors for the last two NFC wild-card spots, one of seven clubs with either six or seven losses.

NCAA puts Auburn on probation



The NCAA has placed the Auburn men's basketball program on four years probation for unethical conduct involving former associate head coach Chuck Person and imposed a two-game suspension on coach Bruce Pearl for failing to monitor his assistant and adequately promote compli-

ance. An NCAA Committee on Infractions panel issued its findings Friday. The NCAA, however, mostly accepted Auburn's self-imposed penalties in the case dating back to September 2017, when FBI agents arrested Person as part of a wide-ranging investigation into corruption in college basketball. Pearl, pictured, will be suspended the next two games for the 18th-ranked Tigers, Saturday against Nebraska in Atlanta and next Tuesday against North Alabama. The report released by the infractions committee panel said Pearl "violated head coach responsibility rules because he did not adequately monitor the associate head coach and failed to promote an atmosphere of compliance. Tennessee had fired Pearl in 2011 after the NCAA charged him with unethical conduct.

Red Bull's Dutch driver Max Verstappen sits in his car in the pits of the Yas Marina Circuit on Friday. GIUSEPPE CACACE/GETTY

AUTO RACING

Staying in their lane

Mercedes, Red Bull play nice for F1 championship

By Jenna Fryer Associated Press

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates - Toto Wolff and Christian Horner barely looked at each other when they sat side-by-side three weeks ago discussing the Formula One champi-

Their frosty relationship thawed briefly Friday ahead of the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, where seven-time champ Lewis Hamilton and Max Verstappen are tied in the points standings heading into the title-deciding race.

Good luck. May the best man and the best team win," said Mercedes head Wolff, who reached across the constructers championship trophy to shake Red Bull rival Horner's hand when asked what the two team principals had to say to each other.

"Exactly," replied Horner, who accepted the handshake.

It was dramatically different from Nov. 19 at the Qatar Grand Prix, where the tension was evident in their rigid body language and open disdain.

'I don't need to go to dinner with Toto. I don't need to kiss his (butt) or anything like that," Horner said that

And from Wolff, "What started as Olympic boxing went to pro boxing and is now MMA. The gloves are off."

But Verstappen had a 14-point lead in the standings at the time of that encounter, held two days before Hamilton earned the second of three consecutive wins — a streak that has evened the championship ahead of Sunday's finale. It's the first time since

1974 the contenders have been tied going into the final race.

Hamilton, winner of four straight titles, has used the last three races to pull within reach of breaking a tie with Michael Schumacher with a record eighth F1 championship. Verstappen, winner of a series-best nine races this season, is seeking to become the first Dutch world champion.

"You know, who would have thought we'd be here this season with an outside shot of going for this trophy? To be tied with Lewis has been amazing journey, an amazing championship," Horner said. "Nobody has come close to challenging (Mercedes) in the last eight years. It's been intense, it's been frustrating on occasions, we've pushed the limits, we've pushed each other, we've pushed our competitors, and here we are at the final race for the showdown."

Fitting for Horner to reference a popular Netflix series. The streaming giant has made the highly quotable Horner a star through its F1 docuseries "Drive To Survive." The Netflix program has been described by F1 insiders as the best thing to happen to the globetrotting racing series in decades because of the show's behindthe-scenes access to F1 drivers and teams. Although F1 is considered the most popular form of motorsports in the world, it has had difficulty gaining solid footing in North America. Its popularity in that region has now exploded because of Netflix.

This season of racing won't air until 2022, but the championship fight is the closest and most dramatic since perhaps 1976, when James Hunt beat Niki Lauda — a battle chronicled in the

2013 Ron Howard blockbuster "Rush." Hamilton has been in tight battles before, including a 2008 showdown with Felipe Massa, who won the season finale in his home country of Brazil and believed he had won the title when he crossed the finish line. His team erupted in celebration with Hamilton nearly 40 seconds behind.

But with a pass for a fifth-place finish made on the final lap, Hamilton clinched his first championship by a

It's shaping up to be another stellar finish in Abu Dhabi, where Verstappen was fastest in Friday's first practice and Hamilton paced the second practice.

"The only chance we have to win this championship is to beat Lewis, and we want to do that on the track,'

Horner said Friday. F1 race director Michael Massi in his regular event notes sent to all competitors reminded teams of rules relating to sporting conduct and the penalties that could follow. It was thought to be a direct message to Red Bull and Verstappen, who has drawn criticism this season for aggressive driving and was accused by Hamilton last week in

Saudi Arabia of being over the line. Verstappen in Abu Dhabi has maintained he has been targeted by the stewards and is treated harsher than his fellow competitors. Both Wolff and Horner were asked by The Associated Press on Friday if Verstappen has been targeted, and Horner removed his mask to answer.

"On occasion I think he has been treated harshly, and I think he has come under scrutiny that we haven't seen applied consistently," said Horner, Verstappen's boss.

Wolff declined to speak specifically about "incidents or the driving itself," but suggested Verstappen's stance is his own perception.

Curry closing in on becoming the 3-point king

By Janie McCauley Associated Press

 $SAN\,FRANCISCO-Ray\,Allen\,fondly\,remembers\,when$ a young Stephen Curry and his little brother, Seth, used to tag along with father Dell and take part in Bucks shoot-

"They'd come and we'd go through drills and they'd be right there with us, and they'd hold their own," said Allen, who was a teammate of Dell Curry in Milwaukee at the time and Dell was the best shooter Allen had been around so far as a third-year guard. That was years before Allen would make his own enduring mark as a shooter.

Now, Stephen Curry is that guy for Golden State — and the two-time MVP is on the brink of breaking Allen's career 3-point record. His next chance comes Saturday night at Philadelphia. Curry needs nine 3-pointers to match Allen's mark of 2,973 regular-season 3s.

Allen accomplished the feat over 18 seasons from 1996-2014. Curry would be doing it in his 13th season.

"His (Allen's) journey was interesting because he was such an athlete, he'd dunk on you, he'd drive, he could shoot the 3 but from what I remember it wasn't a huge part of his game, because he could do so many other things," Curry said. "As it evolved, he adapted and made it more

Curry called Allen's work ethic "a common theme" for the two shooting stars, recalling how Allen arrived at the arena three hours before games to shoot when nobody was inside to watch. That's a stark difference from the pregame show Curry puts on for the masses night after night, thousands holding up their phones to shoot video and capture a glimpse of one of the greatest NBA performers ever.

"He had a very specific routine that he stuck to," Curry said. "I learned a lot from that."

At 33, reigning NBA scoring champion Curry continues to let it fly from every spot on the court, recently knocking down half-court shots in consecutive games.

"I work hard to try to put myself in position to have success, and confidence in my game and how I play, and all that goes into it," Curry said. "With that confidence does come creativity and ability to go out and stretch your imagination for what's possible out there and honestly,

"I just love what I do. So, there's always joy that comes

Curry went a quiet 6 of 17 from beyond the arc in Wednesday's 104-94 win against Portland. Some thought he might somehow break the record against the Trail Blazers. While he would have preferred to become the 3-point leader in front of the raucous home crowd, Curry acknowledged: "It is the weirdest thing to be picky about breaking a record like that. ... I feel like it will be special no matter what because I'll make it special and it will be an amazing

experience for me and my teammates." Portland coach Chauncey Billups realizes what this record means to the way basketball is played today and going forward.

"The game has changed a ton. Quite frankly, he's the reason why," Billups said. "He's one of the most influential players to ever play the game, the way he's changed the way everybody kind of plays the game."

Curry's teammates can't wait to share in his moment. Allen will also appreciate Curry's latest accomplishment. "It's been fascinating to watch. It only seems fitting that this is the path that Steph is on," said Allen, now 46. "People have compared him to myself and Reggie (Miller) and other past shooters. He really operates in a lane of his

Even with another looming milestone, Curry has focused on the big picture.

"I've said it a million times but he's got the greatest sort of combination of humility and arrogance I've ever seen," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "It's a beautiful, perfect combination for a star athlete. The arrogance of knowing he's the best player on the floor that makes everybody want to be around him beyond his team. It's a wonderful combination."



Warriors guard Stephen Curry needs 10 3-pointers to top Ray Allen's record of 2,973 regular-season 3s. JEFF CHIU/AP

MOTORING

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The Subaru Forester Wilderness seems ideal for those who want just a little more off-road capability, although it's no hardcore off-road boulder basher. SUBARU PHOTOS

Subaru heads for the wilderness

New Forester model stands apart from its siblings with upgrades

By Larry Printz
Tribune News Service

n an era when shopping and working are done online, and the need to be anywhere is less essential than ever, the demand for all-wheel-drive vehicles with the ability to get anywhere at any time makes little sense. But neither does the fact that Americans have bought 15 million Chia Pets.

This explains the new for 2022 Subaru Forester Wilderness, a new trim level first seen on the Subaru Outback that tarts up the exterior, raises the car's ride height, adds knobby, off-road tires and adds touches of gold trim that's almost gaudy. But Subaru has long thrived on being the automotive equivalent of Merrell outdoor gear.

The Subaru Forester starts at \$26,320, including a \$1,125 destination charge, for the Base trim. From there, Subaru offers ascending Premium, Sport, Wilderness, Limited and Touring models, topping out at \$36,420. The Wilderness model starts a bit higher at \$33,945.

Opting for it ensures a considerable amount of comfort and convenience features, including heated front seats, heated exterior mirrors, windshield wiper de-icer, 10-way power driver's seat, 17-inch aluminum alloy wheels in black with machine finish; roof rails; dark tint privacy glass; a panoramic power moonroof; leather-wrapped steering wheel, dual front seat USB ports, Apple CarPlay, Android Auto and, in a nod to the 20th century, a CD player. There's also an X-Mode off-road display with a roll and pitch indicator. Neat.

Most importantly, the Wilderness's seats are covered in water resistant StarTex polyurethane, perfect for mucky, soggy clothing. The Wilderness's sole option is an \$1,850 package that adds an 8-inch touch screen with a navigation system, Harman Kardon premium audio, and a rear power rear liftgate.

More than that, however, the Wilderness gets a number of



The on-screen graphics have a very bright, aggressive design, with the smaller center-mounted information screen battling for your attention with the larger infotainment screen below it.

2022 Subaru Forester Wilderness

Base price: \$33,945
Engine: 2.5-liter horizontally-opposed
DOHC four-cylinder
Horsepower/Torque: 182/176 poundfeet

EPA fuel economy (city/highway): 25/28 mpg

Fuel required: 87 Octane Cargo capacity: 26.9-69.1 cubic feet Towing capacity: 3,000 pounds

mechanical and design tweaks that render it unique in the Forester lineup. Consider the coil springs and shock absorbers; they're longer than the ones on other models to provide 9.2 inches of ground clearance, rather than the Forester's standard 8.7 inches. It also wears Yokohama all-terrain tires on 17-inch wheels, and Subaru includes a full-size spare tire underneath the cargo area floor. The added functionality continues on the exterior, where a ladder-type roof rack can transport 220 pounds of gear and supports 800 pounds when parked, enough to hold larger roof tents. Just be careful when you roll over in your sleep.

Other modifications include a unique hexagonal front grille and front fascia, acres of additional lower body cladding, gold color accents, a front skid plate, unique LED fog lights and a matte-black, anti-glare hood decal. The changes announce this Forester's primeval tendencies with modern flair. But the wheels look small compared to the overall height of the body, which is accentuated by the added ride height, lending it a goofy look — something Subaru owners are accustom to.

The Forester Wilderness benefits from the tall cabin used throughout the lineup, allowing for an equally tall, upright seating position. For those who enjoy sitting in church pews, you'll appreciate this driving position. This also helps make the most of legroom in both rows. Outward visibility is excellent. Overall ambience is commensurate with its price, feeling neither cheap not pricey. The on-screen graphics have a very bright, aggressive design, with the smaller center-mounted information screen battling for your attention with the larger infotainment screen below it. A little design hierarchy might have helped here.

While the Wilderness stands apart from its siblings in upgrades, the one item that remains the same resides under the hood. There you'll find the same 2.5-liter double-overhead cam horizontally opposed four-banger used in other Foresters. It's rated at 182 horsepower and 176 pound-feet of torque and mated to a continuously variable automatic transmission with all-wheel drive. Uniquely, the transmission has more low-end torque than in other Foresters, although it still won't overwhelm you with its abundant torque. But towing capacity is 3,000 pounds, more than double other Forester models thanks to the addition of a transmission oil cooler. Thoughtfully, Subaru also fits the Wilderness with Trailer Stability Assist to ease the burden of towing. Other driver assistance safety systems include automatic emergency steering, pre-collision braking, blind-spot detection with lane change assist, hill descent control, and rear cross-traffic alert.

The Subaru Forester Wilderness seems ideal for those who want just a little more off-road capability, although it's no hardcore off-road boulder basher. But the suspension revisions lend the Forester Wilderness ready for unpaved roads and undulating trails.

The compliance can be felt on-road, dispensing with the worst that America's crumbling infrastructure deals up. Body lean builds gradually, clearly communicating its capability.

The one real issue with this vehicle's handling is the steering, however. On-center feel is lacking, and there's a lot of play where nothing happens.

The changes endow the Forester Wilderness with a more rugged appearance, and off-road-oriented enhancements make it feel more like an SUV and less like the tall wagon it really is. This will make this model's premium more than worth it, if you can tolerate its looks.

Larry Printz is an automotive journalist based in South Florida. Readers may send him email at TheDrivingPrintz@gmail.com.

Jeep lovers will be ready to sign for Cherokee L

By Barry Spyker Tribune News Service

There's an all-new redesigned 2022 Jeep Grand Cherokee — including the 4xe hybrid — and a Wagoneer revival coming down the road this winter. But the three-row Grand Cherokee L version, introduced for 2021 and the first three-row Jeep since the 2010 Commander, beat them to the showrooms.

Outside: The Grand Cherokee L is noticeably bigger than the two-row but should fit in most garages. It has a longish hood and trademark sevenslot grille that tilts inward like the old Wagoneer. It also gets new LED lights, a lower beltline with bigger windows. Higher trims get a contrasting black roof and 21-inch wheels.

lower beltline with bigger windows. Higher trims ge a contrasting black roof an 21-inch wheels.

Inside: Gorgeous award-winning interior with Palermo leather seats, wood trim on the top-line Summit. Second-row captain's chairs are

ventilated, heated, and thev

recline and flip forward.

But let's cut to the chase: How good is that third row? It has 30.3 inches of legroom, which is better than some, shy of others, but easy to get into. Adults can go there in a pinch but, like most, it's best for youngsters.

youngsters.

Performance: A 5.7-liter
V-8 engine generates 357
hp and 390 pound-feet of
torque; Linked to 8-speed
automatic transmission,
able to tow 7,200 pounds.
Five drive modes — Auto,
Sport, Rock, Snow, Mud/
Sand — optimize throttle,

steering, suspension traction. Air suspension virtually wipes out bumps and a separate setting can even lock ground clearance in at maximum ground clearance of 10.9 inches. EPA

sets mpg at 21 combined. **Tech/Safety:** Uconnect navigation/infotainment system (among the industry's best) with 10.1-inch screen, available 19-speaker audio with 950-watt amplifier. It also has head-up display and rear camera/mirror. Available driver-assist technology includes



The 2021 Jeep Grand Cherokee L Summit Reserve. **STELLANTIS**

Night Vision with pedestrian detection in its digital instrument cluster, adaptive cruise control with lane-keep assist.

Base Price: \$58,995 Final word: Jeep lovers will say, "Where do I sign?" But there are plenty of competitors out there. On top of that, Jeepers have another dilemma: Grand Cherokee or the body-onframe Wagoneer?



AUTO REVIEW

2022 Genesis GV70 is not your neighbors' compact luxury SUV

By Larry Printz Tribune News Service

Considering a new compact SUV? Here's a question: Are you brave enough to consider the Genesis GV70? You should be. After all, when it's time to buy or lease a new ride. you'll probably opt for the same brand or dealer that you've used before, and maybe even buy the same luxury brand again - you know, like the ones your neighbors have. Which leads to another question: Why?

Variety is the spice of life — unless you're trying to lose weight, in which case chicken and broccoli are a way of life. But who wants nothing but chicken and broccoli? Consider the Genesis GV70 the antidote to all of that, a refreshing

change of pace. The test vehicle in question is the 2022 Genesis G70 AWD 3.5T Sport Prestige, which starts at \$52,600 and stickered at \$65,045 as tested with options. It starts with a \$1,500 optional paint job, accentuated by the \$4,900 Sport Prestige Package, which adds the sort of options all the cool kids are wearing these days, including 12-inch alloy wheels, electronic limited slip differential, Nappa leather seating surfaces with suede inserts, carbon fiber trim, three-zone automatic climate control, 2022 Genesis GV70

Base price: \$52,600 Engine: Turbocharged

3.5-liter V6 Horsepower/Torque: 375/391 pound-feet of torque EPA fuel economy (city/ **highway):** 19/25 mpg Fuel required: Premium Length/Width/Height: 185.6/75.2/64.2 inches **Ground clearance:**

> 7.3 inches Cargo capacity: 28.9-56.9 cubic feet

rear sunshade and a 12.3inch digital instrument cluster. In addition, the \$5,000 Sport Advance Package cranks it up to 11, with quilted leather seating, leatherette door trim, suede headliner, a heated steering wheel, an incredible Lexicon 16-speaker audio system, and a number of driver assistance systems.

And the GV70 wears it all so well, with masterful and distinctive styling that stands apart in its segment. The large shield grille boldly proclaims its heritage, as do interesting details such as the dual horizontal front and rear lighting, which plays to the brand's signature "dual

line" design cues. The instrument panel has a distinctive bullet shape, housing the climate controls and other functions, while its massive 14.5-inch touchscreen

is operated by a solid, well-engineered and beautifully crafted rotary controller on the center console. Material qual-

heightening the interior's visual simplicity that is the very quintessence of luxury. As moving as all of this is, nothing will quite prepare you for how good

> this vehicle is once it's time to move. The Genesis GV70 is offered with all-aluminum double-overhead cam engines: the 2.5T, with a 300-horsepower four-cylinder engine, and the 3.5T, with a 375-horsepower six. As you might expect,

the 3.5T is also fitted

with larger brakes and a

of MacPherson struts in

front, multi-link in the rear

suspension comprised

ity throughout is first rate,

with adaptive dampers. The result of this mechanical wizardry is the golden mean of a modern luxury conveyance. Its comfort is impressive, but so is its athleticism. One doesn't come at the expense of the other.

The brand boasts vehicles that you aspire to own. They are truly special, and clearly superior to their competitors, particularly given their price.

Larry Printz is an automotive journalist based in South Florida. Readers may send him email at TheDrivingPrintz@gmail

What's up with the brakes?



Bob Weber Motormouth

Q: The anti-lock brakes on my 2003 Camry activate on an intermittent, but fairly frequent basis. They sometimes pulsate when slowing to a stop on dry pavement. It happens right before stopping, never when going the speed limit. The Toyota dealer mechanic test drove it, and of course, it did not malfunction for them. They said they could not diagnose the problem unless the ABS light is lit, but not to worry. The brakes are hydraulic, and the ABS is electronic, so the brakes will continue to stop the car. Is it OK not to be concerned? My wife says a new car is the solution, but it would be great to keep this one for a little while longer. What are your thoughts? - R.M., Oak Park, Illinois

A: All cars have hydraulic brakes that have been essentially the same for decades. The anti-lock brake system is an adjunct. If the ABS fails, the regular brakes, the brakes you use every day, continue to function normally. There is no need for concern. If the ABS kicks in just before coming to a stop, it is usually due to a weak signal from one or more sensors. This may, or may not, trigger a warning light. Replacing the sensor — or sensors – will not bankrupt you.

Q: With the prevalence of catalytic converter theft, it occurred to me that if you could not sell a catalytic converter without being a licensed automotive business, stealing the whole car is the only

option. — P.D., Chicago A: It is not only illegal to steal converters, but also to sell them and to accept



All cars have hydraulic brakes that have been essentially the same for decades. DREAMSTIME

stolen cats. It is usually a misdemeanor that comes with a stiff fine. "Cat burglars" are only after a quick buck, not a whole car.

Q: I have a 2004 **Mercury Sable with** a 3.0-liter V-6 engine. **Odometer shows about** 140,000 miles. In the past I have used Motorcraft SAE 5W-20 synthetic blend oil. Last summer I had problems with the engine shutting off when driven for 20 or 30 miles. The low oil pressure warning came on. After the engine had cooled for several minutes, it could be restarted. The Ford dealer found the oil pressure was only about 8 psi and said the engine may need to be replaced or rebuilt. One mechanic suggested using a motor oil with a higher viscosity. Do you have any suggestions how to correct it without replacing or rebuilding the engine? - K.B., Virginia Beach, Virginia

A: It is worth a try to use a heavier weight, traditional motor oil, but there may be significant wear inside the engine. Another possibility is a worn oil pump or restricted pickup tube screen. Get a pro to do an oil pressure test. A rebuilt short block may be

in your future.

Q: The guy that wrote to you about drafting his Tesla behind vehicles on the road must be about two bricks short of a load. Not only is that dangerous as you pointed out but following too closely is illegal. In Florida it is three points on your license if caught or four points if it results in an accident. I just hope that moron isn't a resident of Orlando, because we have enough nuts driving around here. Always enjoy your columns with spot-on accurate advice.

– H.M., Orlando, Florida A: Nothing is quite as dangerous as a loose nut behind the wheel.

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@ gmail.com.





10 Things You Might Not **Know About Nearly Everything**

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A cardigan worn by a man is sometimes called a mandigan.

FACT #147

When someone uses chitchat, noises, or mannerisms to distract or mislead an opponent during poker or another game, it's called "coffeehousing."

FACT #178

Genuphobia is the fear of knees.

FACT #238

Actress Marilyn Monroe colored her hair using a shade of blond called dirty pillow slip.

Before Sir Thomas More was beheaded in 1535, he moved his lengthy beard aside, saying it "had never committed any

FACT #302

Tweety Bird, the animated Looney Tunes character, was originally pink. But censors complained that Tweety looked naked, so animators gave the bird yellow feathers.

FACT #408

Joe Charbonneau, a Belvedere, Ill., native, who played outfield for the Cleveland Indians in the early '80s, used to open beer bottles with his eye socket and drink beer through a straw in his nose.

When actor Clint Eastwood ran for mayor of Carmel, California, in 1986, a major issue was ice cream. Town leaders had banned the sale of ice cream cones, incensing Eastwood and his supporters. They won and overturned the ordinance.

WEATHER



Mostly cloudy becoming very breezy and mild with showers around, South wind at 5 to 15

60/40

HIGH 61 38°

SUNRISE NOON SUNSET Early clouds give way to a mostly sunny sky, breezy.

SUNDAY

-<u>Ö</u>-

HIGH Ö **30**

SUNRISE NOON SUNSET Mostly sunny and milder.

MONDAY

HIGH Mostly sunny and seasonably mild.

32°

TUESDAY NOON SUNSET

HIGH Variable o

28

SUNRISE NOON SUNSET cloudiness and cool.

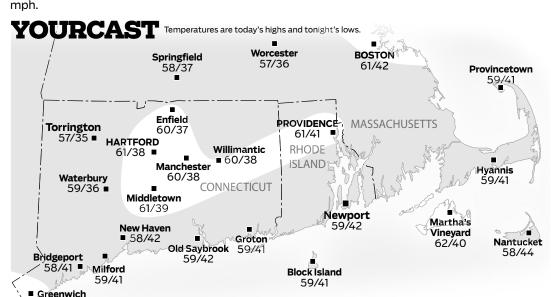
WEDNESDAY

HIGH 48° 40° throughout your day.

CONNECTICUT **WEATHER**

For the latest weather news

courant.com/weather



Seattle 0 Billings 40/30/C 20s Minneapolis 0 0 20s 303 48/38/R⁰40s 0s Lebanon San 30s 40s Philadelphia Francisco `à64/42/SH Denve 109 ²⁰⁵ 45/21/PC 55/51/PC 40s Anchorage. 0 30 11/-8/PO Juneau Washington D.C. 40s Kansas City 40s Los 31/18/SF Angeles 66/49/S Phoenix 49/29/S 70s 5 40s 68/45/S Atlanta 509 60s 69/40/SH El Paso 60s 55/28/PC **(1)** 60s Dallas ■58/31/PC Q 50s Houston Honolulu 66/38/C Tampa 83/72/PC 60s 🏻 Miami

OUTLOOK

A warm front will lift northward across the state Saturday morning causing clouds and showers. It will become very breezy along the shoreline this morning and inland this afternoon. Temperatures will be unseasonably mild with highs in the 50s and the lower 60s. A vigorous cold front will move through this evening with showers and strong gusty winds. Peak gusts could reach 45 mph inland and the shoreline could gust up to 55 mph. The wind will only slowly diminish overnight. Early clouds on Sunday, then there will be clearing skies. It will be breezy and much cooler.

Stamford

Heating Degree Days

For July 1 - Dec 10

HIGHS

Atmosphere

Barometer

Dew point

70

30-day Temperature History

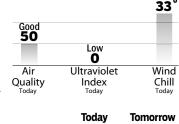
-Gary Lessor

ALMANAC

Precipitation In Inches Total Normal Yesterday (by 7 p.m.) 0.00 0.14 Month to date 0.57 1.40 Total this year 52.56 44.37 **Snowfall In Inches**

Yesterday (by 4 p.m.) 0.0 0.3 Total this year 2.1 4.6 Precipitation, temperature at Windsor Locks

Air Quality Forecast For Today



	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise	7:08 a.m.	7:08 a.m.
Sunset	4:20 p.m.	4:20 p.m.
Moonrise	12:48 p.m.	1:10 p.m.
Moonset	a.m.	12:40 a.m.

Moon Phase							
First	Full	Last	New				
Dec 10	Dec 18	Dec 26	Jan 2				

Stockholm

Sydney Tel Aviv

Toronto

Warsaw

Vancouver

66 50 PC

45 44 C

61 41

75 51

45 28

45 28

10 9 S

84 66 PC

75 50 PC

46 41 C

52 34 C

34 28

88 72

90 73

34 25 SH

72 59 C 75 49 S

41 39 SH

32 27 S

75 49

61 46

59 30

Weather page produced by

CONNECTICUT

Weather Center

WESTERN

UNIVERSITY

1.0 0.8 0.6 0.4 0.2 **Tides** High Low Temp. N.L. State Pier 3:09 a.m. 9:40 a.m. 3:26 p.m. 10:03 p.m. Saybrook Jetty 4:20 a.m. 10:33 a.m. 4:37 p.m. 10:56 p.m. Connecticut River 7:03 a.m. 1:46 a.m. at Portland 7:20 p.m. 2:19 p.m. Madison 4:33 a.m. 10:45 a.m. 47 4:55 p.m. 11:09 p.m. **New Haven** 4:53 a.m. 11:09 a.m. 5:15 p.m. 11:33 p.m.

30-day Precipitation History In Inches

River Stage at Hartford: 5.51 feet at 6:30 p.m.

4:57 a.m. 11:23 a.m.

5:19 p.m. 11:47 p.m.

48

Last

Season

1265

Low

30.14 at 2 p.m.

21° at 12 a.m.

Boating	L.I. Sound W	L.I. Sound E	B. I. Sound
Weather	Showers	Showers	Showers
Wind	S, 15-25	S, 15-25	S, 15-30
Seas	1-3 ft.	2-4 ft.	6-9 ft.

Temperature	High	Low		
Friday	40 at 3:45 p.m	30 at 3:32 a.n		
Normal for date	42	26		
Record for date	67 in 1946	1 in 1964		
A year ago	47	28		
Range this year	99	1		

Season

1254

High

30.24 at 12 a.m.

29° at 4 p.m.

Normal

1461

AROUND THE WORLD Today's forecast in cities not included in the maps above:

New Orleans

78 50 SH

66 42 SH

44 26 S

83 62 PC

62 31 R

48 32 PC

64 36 PC

71 48

Salt Lake City 41 26 C

51 28

Tucson

Athens

Beiiina

Beirut

Berlin

66 49 PC Bermuda

Bangkok

Barbados

WORLD

Amsterdam

Nashville

New York

Okla. City

Omaha

Orlando

Raleigh

St. Louis

Pittsburgh

San Antonio

NEW ENGLAND				B 111		••	_	
	Bangor	49	36	R	Baltimore		40	-
	Burlington		36	R	Bismarck			PC
	Caribou		32	ï	Boise	40	37	С
	Concord		41	Ŕ	Buffalo	59	32	R
	Montpelier		32	R	Charleston	78	58	PC
					Cincinnati	61	29	т
	Mt. Wash.	40	8	R	Cleveland	-	30	Ť
	Portland	49	38	R				-
	Woods Hole	50	42	СП	Indianapolis	43	29	Т
	WOOUS FIOR	Jo	42	311	Jacksonville	80	61	PC
	NATION				Las Vegas	52	36	PC
	Albani	г.	40	ь.	Miami Beach	80	73	PC
	Albany	53	40	R				

Albuquerque 43 22 S Milwaukee Atlantic City 65 42 C KEY: S Sunny, C Cloudy, PC Partly Cloudy, R Rain, SH Showers, SN Snow, SF Snow Flurries, T T-storms

LOCAL SPORTS

SATURDAY'S

SCHEDULE

CIAC TOURNAMENTS

At Trumbull High School Class **S**—Final No. 2Cromwell/Portland (12-0) vs.

field Prep (11-1), 3p.m.

Class LL-Final

ney (11-1), 11a.m. Class **M**—Final

ingly (11-0), 3p.m.

FRIDAY'S

COLLEGE

RESULTS

No. 1Bloomfield (12-0), 11a.m.

No. 3Darien (11-1) vs. No. 1Fair

At Veteran's Stadium, New Britain Class L—Final

No. 5Windsor (11-1) vs. No. 3Malo-

No. 2Rockville (10-2) vs. No. 1Kill-

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

WESLEYAN AT PLYMOUTH STATE,

SATURDAY'S COLLEGE SCHEDULE

National Invitational Champion

UCONN AT VALPARAISO, LATE

UNION AT TRINITY, LATE

BROWN AT YALE, LATE

QUINNIPIAC AT LIU, LATE WOMEN'S HOCKEY SUFFOLK AT TRINITY, LATE

MEN'S BASKETBALL

CCNY at Trinity, 1p.m. Central at Providence, 2p.m.

Maine at Ouinnipiac, 2p.m.

Wesleyan at Farmingdale State,

Eastern at Plymouth State, 3p.m.

Never Forget Tribute Classic (Newark, N.J.) St. Bonaventure vs. UConn, 4p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Eastern at Plymouth State, 1p.m.

Anna Maria at St. Joseph. 1p.m.

Quinnipiac at Providence, 1p.m. UMass Lowell at Yale, 2p.m.

Gordon at Trinity, 3p.m. Wesleyan at Williams, 3p.m. Never Forget Tribute Classic

(Newark, N.J.)

UCLA vs. UConn, 1p.m. MEN'S HOCKEY

Hobart at Trinity, 4p.m.

LIU at Quinnipiac, 7p.m. WOMEN'S HOCKEY

WRESTLING

SUNDAY'S

SCHEDULE

COLLEGE

(Brooklyn, N.Y.)

Iona vs. Yale, 7p.m.

Weslevan at Manhattanville, 2p.m.

Johnson & Wales at Trinity, 7p.m

Williams at Trinity, 7:30p.m.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Basketball HoF Invitationa

Iona at Sacred Heart, 2p.m.

Fairfield at William & Mary, 1p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

AHL Standings Atlantic; GP; W; L; OTL; SOL; PTS;

Springfield; 19; 14; 3; 2; 0; 30; .789 Hartford; 18; 12; 4; 2; 0; 26; .722 Providence; 17; 8; 5; 3; 1; 20; .588

Hershey; 17; 8; 6; 2; 1; 19; .559 Charlotte; 21; 10; 9; 2; 0; 22; .524

W-B/Scranton; 18; 8; 8; 0; 2; 18;

Bridgeport; 22; 7; 12; 1; 2; 17; .386

Anna Maria at St. Joseph, 3p.m.

Hartford at UNLV, 3p.m

HIGH SCHOOL

Lehigh Valley; 19; 3; 11; 4; 1; 11;

North; GP; W; L; OTL; SOL; PTS;

39 28 SH San Diego

Utica: 19: 16: 1: 2: 0: 34: 895 Rochester; 18; 12; 6; 0; 0; 24; .667 Cleveland: 21: 10: 6: 2: 3: 25 Toronto; 17; 9; 6; 1; 1; 20; .588 Laval; 21; 10; 9; 2; 0; 22; .524 Belleville; 20; 9; 11; 0; 0; 18; .450 Syracuse; 18; 6; 9; 2; 1; 15; .417 Central; GP; W; L; OTL; SOL; PTS;

Chicago; 20; 14; 4; 1; 1; 30; .750 Manitoba; 21; 13; 7; 1; 0; 27; .643 Iowa; 19; 9; 8; 1; 1; 20; .526 Rockford; 19; 9; 8; 1; 1; 20; .526 Grand Rapids; 20; 9; 8; 2; 1; 21; .525 Texas; 18; 7; 8; 2; 1; 17; .472 Milwaukee; 20; 7; 12; 1; 0; 15; .375 Pacific; GP; W; L; OTL; SOL; PTS;

Stockton; 18; 14; 2; 2; 0; 30; .833 Ontario; 17; 12; 4; 0; 1; 23; .735 Henderson; 16; 8; 6; 1; 1; 18; .563 Tucson; 16; 8; 7; 1; 0; 17; .531 San Diego; 17; 8; 8; 1; 0; 17; .500 Colorado; 19; 8; 8; 1; 2; 19; .500 Bakersfield; 15; 6; 6; 1; 2; 15; .500 Abbotsford; 17; 7; 7; 2; 1; 17; .500 San Jose; 17; 6; 10; 1; 0; 13; .382

THURSDAY'S LATE RESULT CHICAGO AT TEXAS, LATE FRIDAY'S

RESULTS SYRACUSE AT CHARLOTTE, LATE CLEVELAND AT UTICA, LATE BELLEVILLE AT PROVIDENCE, LATE TORONTO AT SPRINGFIELD, LATE LAVAL AT ROCHESTER, LATE GRAND RAPIDS AT MANITOBA,

LATE IOWA AT MILWAUKEE, LATE HENDERSON AT ROCKFORD, LATE STOCKTON AT TUCSON, LATE BAKERSFIELD AT COLORADO, LATE SAN DIEGO AT ONTARIO, LATE

SATURDAY'S SCHEDULE

Hershey at W-B/Scranton, 6p.m. Toronto at Bridgeport, 7p.m. Grand Rapids at Manitoba, 7p.m. Iowa at Milwaukee, 7p.m. Henderson at Rockford, 7p.m. Cleveland at Lehigh Valley, 7p.m. Providence at Springfield, 7p.m. Chicago at Texas, 8p.m. Stockton at Tucson, 9p.m. Bakersfield at Colorado, 9p.m. Ontario at San Diego, 10p.m. Big East basketball standings Team; CONF; CPCT; OVR; PCT Providence; 0-0; .000; 9-1; .900 Seton Hall; 0-0; .000; 8-1; .889 Xavier; 0-0; .000; 8-1; .889 DePaul; 0-0; .000; 7-1; .875

Marquette; 0-0; .000; 8-2; .800 UConn; 0-0; .000; 8-2; .800 Creighton; 0-0; .000; 7-2; .778

St. John's; 0-0; .000; 7-2; .778 Villanova; 0-0; .000; 7-2; .778

Georgetown; 0-0; .000; 4-4; .500

Butler; 0-0; .000; 6-3; .667

THURSDAY'S LATE RESULT ST. JOHN'S 88, MONMOUTH 83 **FRIDAY'S RESULTS**

DEPAUL AT LOUISVILLE, LATE SATURDAY'S SCHEDULE

Creighton vs. BYU, noon Syracuse at Georgetown, noon Central Conn. at Providence, 2p.m. UCLA at Marquette, 2:30p.m. Eastern Illinois at Butler, 4p.m. Never Forget Tribute Classic (Newark, N.J.) UConn vs. St. Bonaventure, 4p.m. WOMEN'S Team; CONF; CPCT; OVR; PCT DePaul; 2-0; 1.000; 8-2; .800

Marguette: 2-0: 1.000: 6-2: .750 Creighton; 2-0; 1.000; 5-2; .714 UConn; 1-0; 1.000; 5-2; .714 St. John's; 1-0; 1.000; 4-4; .500 Georgetown; 1-1; .500; 5-4; .556 Providence; 1-1; .500; 5-5; .500 Xavier; 0-2; .000; 4-5; .444 Seton Hall; 0-2; .000; 3-4; .429 Butler; 0-2; .000; 0-8; .000

THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS DEPAUL 94, KENTUCKY 85 VILLANOVA 76, JAMES MADISON

GEORGETOWN 68, GEORGE WASHINGTON 63

FRIDAY'S RESULT **DENVER AT BUTLER. LATE SATURDAY'S SCHEDULE**

Seton Hall at Princeton, noon La Salle at St. John's, 1p.m. Quinnipiac at Providence, 1p.m. North Dakota at Marquette, 5p.m. Never Forget Tribute Classic (Newark, N.J.) UConn vs. UCLA, 1p.m. Hockey East standings

Team; OGP; OVR; CGP; CONF; CPTS

UMass; 15; 9-4-2; 11; 7-2-2; 24 Northeastern; 18; 13-4-1; 11; 7-3-1:23 UMass Lowell; 14; 8-3-3; 9; 6-2-1; Providence: 19: 12-7-0: 11: 6-5-0:

Boston College; 15; 8-5-2; 9; 5-3-1; 17 Boston University; 17; 6-9-2; 12;

5-5-2; 16 UConn; 14; 8-6-0; 9; 5-4-0; 14 Merrimack; 15; 6-9-0; 10; 3-7-0; 12 New Hampshire; 17; 7-9-1; 11; 3-7-1; 9 Vermont; 14; 3-9-2; 8; 2-4-2; 8 Maine; 15; 1-11-3; 11; 1-8-2; 7

FRIDAY'S Abbotsford at San Jose, 4:15p.m. Syracuse at Charlotte, 6p.m. **RESULTS** UMASS LOWELL AT VERMONT,

PRINCETON AT PROVIDENCE, LATE UNION AT MAINE, LATE
BOSTON COLLEGE AT BOSTON UNIVERSITY, LATE

SATURDAY'S SCHEDULE

U.S. Under-18Team at Boston University (exhibition), 3p.m. Union at Maine, 5p.m. UMass Lowell at Vermont, 7p.m. Princeton at Providence, 7p.m. WOMEN'S Team; OGP; OVR; CGP; CONF;

CPTS Northeastern; 19; 16-2-1; 14; 11-2-1; 35 Boston University; 18; 9-6-3; 15; 8-4-3; 27 UConn; 20; 14-4-2; 13; 8-3-2; 25 Boston College; 17; 10-7-0; 12;

Vermont; 17; 8-7-2; 10; 5-4-1; 16 Providence; 17; 7-5-5; 10; 4-4-2; 16 Maine; 19; 6-12-1; 12; 4-7-1; 16 Merrimack; 20; 5-14-1; 15; 4-10-New Hampshire; 18; 6-10-2; 13;

4-8-1; 15 Holy Cross; 16; 2-14-0; 12; 1-11-0; 3 FRIDAY'S

RESULTS **BOSTON COLLEGE AT VERMONT,** PENN STATE AT NEW HAMPSHIRE,

BROWN AT HOLY CROSS, LATE SATURDAY'S SCHEDULE

LIU at Merrimack (exhibition),

7:30p.m.

KNICKS 1ST TRIMESTER REPORT CARD

Randle a solid C, while Walker is an obvious F

By Stefan Bondy New York Daily News

The Knicks are indicative of their record: a game under .500 and as inconsistent as bodega

Kingston

Lisbon

London

Madrid

Montreal

Moscow

Nassau

Paris

Rome

Prague

New Delhi

Rio de Janeiro

Mexico City

39 31

76 55 S

84 73 SH

79 64 PC

55 39 SH

49 42 SH

37 27 SN

75 66 PC

63 57 C

Buenos Aires 82 70 PC

Budanest

Cairo

Dubai

Dublin

Edinburah

Hong Kong

Helsinki

Istanbul

Jerusalem

Johannesburg 77 57

43 36 PC

63 46 SH

91 72 S

85 74 PC

54 28 C

76 60 PC

32 28 C

72 65 PC

Cancun

They're also 25 games into the campaign, a large enough stretch to call for a first trimester report card.

Let's get into it.

JULIUS RANDLE

Stats: 25 games, 35.2 mpg, 19.8 ppg, 9.8 rpg, 5.2 apg, 43% shooting

Breakdown: Not shooting with the same efficiency from beyond the arc and relying too much on iso-ball in the halfcourt. All of Randle's stats are down from last season's exhilarating ride to Second Team All-NBA. He can still take over a game, but that's occurring less often this season. If anything, he looks more like the 2019-2020 Julius. Grade: C **OBI TOPPIN**

Stats: 25 games, 15.6 mpg, 8.3 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 0.9 apg, 54%

shooting **Breakdown:** Unquestionably the team's most exciting player, and he's taken a giant leap from his underwhelming rookie campaign. Tom Thibodeau still doesn't trust Toppin's defense enough for big minutes — especially since the Knicks coach is resistant to a small-ball lineup with Randle at center – but the 24-year-old's status is elevating. He's elite in transition. Grade: B+

EVAN FOURNIER Stats: 25 games, 28.3 mpg,

12.8 ppg, 2.8 rpg, 1.7 apg, 41% Breakdown: Arrived with

the expectations of a big new contract and pushed as the Knicks' answer to their offensive woes in the playoffs. Fournier's debut in October was spectacular, but the last seven weeks were a disappointment. He's last among the starters in defensive rating and net rating, which has led



Kemba Walker has struggled, but is that enough to force a permanent lineup change? SARAH STIER/GETTY

to a frequent view from the bench during fourth quarters.

Grade: C-

KEMBA WALKER

Stats: 18 games, 24.5 mpg, 11.7 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 3.1 apg, 43% shooting

Breakdown: Perhaps we can already send Walker a final grade because he's been removed from the rotation while racking up DNPs. He shot efficiently, but the lineup couldn't function positively with the four-time All-Star. Defense was an issue and Walker can no longer get to the rim, effectively turning him into a spot-up shooter. Walker's a class act and the circumstances seem rushed, but Walker may have already played his last game with the Knicks. Grade: F

DERRICK ROSE

Stats: 22 games, 23.6 mpg, 12.1 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 3.9 apg, 45%

Breakdown: Spearheads the thriving second unit while playing unselfishly and pushing the pace. Arguably the team's best and most consistent player through 25 games, which isn't ideal for the Knicks since Rose is no longer physically capable of carrying a large minutes load. Grade: A-

IMMANUEL QUICKLEY

Stats: 25 games, 21.2 mpg, 9.7 ppg, 2.4 rpg, 2.4 apg, 39%

shooting Breakdown: Still very streaky, but unafraid of the big moment or lively celebrations. Projects best as a scoring two-guard off the bench - a similar ilk to his idol Lou Williams – and Thibodeau has trusted Quickley as the closer over Fournier. Grade: B-**NERLENS NOEL**

Stats: 11 games, 23.7 mpg, 4.0 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 1.3 bpg, 52% shooting

Breakdown: It's been one nagging injury after another for Noel, and Thibodeau has made clear that the center is dictating whether he plays. Noel has missed over half the games so far. When available, he's not been at the level of last season. Grade: D-

MITCHELL ROBINSON

Stats: 22 games, 25 mpg, 6.9 ppg, 7.7 rpg, 1.8 bpg, 75% shooting

Breakdown: Adding weight while recovering from a broken foot never sounded like a good idea, and Robinson acknowledged recently his fitness remains an issue. A free agent after this season, Robinson needs to rediscover the explosiveness that made him an All-Rookie selection two years ago. He's now a step too slow. Grade: C **TAJ GIBSON**

Stats: 12 games, 18.6 mpg, 3.1 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 1.2 bpg, 47% shooting

Breakdown: The expectations were low for a 36-yearold third-string center, but Gibson has been called into action plenty of times because of injuries to Noel and Robinson. Grade: B-

RJ BARRETT Stats: 24 games, 31.4 mpg,

15.0 ppg, 5.6 rpg, 2.1 apg, 41%

Breakdown: The ascension was supposed to continue after Barrett's breakthrough last season but he's trended the other way. Grade: C+



Hartford Courant

EXTRA

Cooking more at home? Want the latest on the hottest restaurants? Want to share that new recipe?

Join the Courant's cooking club online at www.facebook.com/groups/CourantCookingClub to share recipes, tips and take part in exclusive cooking demonstrations and live Q&As.

You can also get the latest on the restaurant scene and dining trends in Connecticut mailed directly to your inbox by subscribing to the Courant's Food & Drink newsletter. Please go to courant.com/newsletters for more information.

PO Box 569, Hartford, CT 06141-0569 • Please deliver in home December 9 and December 10 "NON-MACH"

Creamy comfort Stouffer's mac and cheese inspires this homemade dish

or those nostalgic enough to look into them, old restaurant menus, like telescopes, can reveal distant worlds. A Stouffer's restaurant menu dated Friday, July 5, 1955, for instance, lists a macaroni and cheese dinner plate for a dollar, among other entrees like chicken fricassee, broiled whitefish and breaded pork steak with apple sauce. The mac and cheese came with a trio of sides: spinach soufflé, julienne carrots and a tossed green salad. If a drink was in order, one could wash all of that down with a claret cobbler, a cocktail of red wine, fresh fruit and sugar, or maybe with a Bamboo, which mixes

By Eric Kim | The New York Times

This is the same Stouffer's that has become best known for frozen dinners sold in a distinctive red box. The company began as a family business in the early 1900s, operating a small dairy stand in Cleveland before expanding into restaurants, hotels and freezer-aisle products. Vernon Bigelow Stouffer inherited the business and turned it into an American food

sherry and vermouth — both for 55 cents.

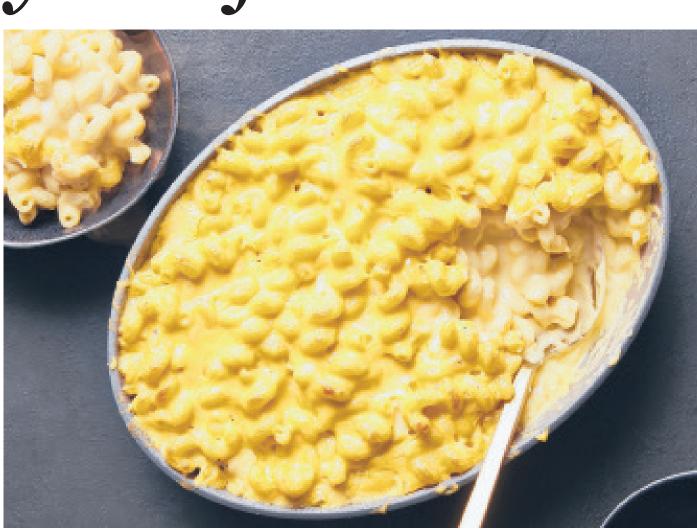
Some may consider Stouffer's a metonym for TV dinner. But from the French-bread pizza to the lasagna with meat sauce, Stouffer's products are relics that remain household staples decades later. The mac and cheese in particular has become what I consider the platonic ideal of that dish: a sauce of creamy, golden velvet on bouncy, perfectly cooked (arguably overcooked) noodles, the cheese still voluptuously smooth even after a long stint in the oven.

There are many ways to arrive at a Stouffer'sstyle macaroni and cheese in your own kitchen without having to stroll by the freezer aisle.

This recipe starts with a classic roux (a mixture of butter and flour), which becomes a béchamel when milk joins the party. The transition from béchamel to cheese sauce is a beautiful thing: It will seem as if it's a lot of cheese at first, but that's because it's a lot of sauce. The sauce-to-pasta ratio here is really what makes Stouffer's mac and cheese, well, Stouffer's mac

Recreating that creaminess was the biggest challenge. Overheating a cheese sauce, especially in the oven, can cause its emulsion to break, turning a velvety pasta into a grainy gunge. If it's baked macaroni and cheese you're after, not stovetop, then there's little getting around this.

But there is one method that works. Paul Adams, the senior science research editor at Cook's Illustrated, has written about the stabilizing powers of sodium citrate, an ingredient found in processed cheeses like Velveeta. "It's fun to see it in action," he said, "because it opens up a whole world of otherwise ineligible cheeses that you can melt smoothly into a sauce." Though you could go out and buy sodium citrate, using a smidgen of Velveeta in your sauce does wonders for keeping it indelibly smooth and bound, like movie-theater nacho cheese.



Inspired by Stouffer's mac and cheese, in the red box from the freezer aisle, this homemade version delivers the same molten creaminess. TESTANI/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Creamy baked macaroni and cheese

This recipe, inspired by Stouffer's macaroni and cheese, delivers the best of all worlds: creamy, saucy comfort, with a consistency that's slightly more set than a stovetop version, thanks to a final bake in the oven. It stavs voluptuous and molten as a result of a higher ratio of sauce to noodles, which are cooked completely so they don't soak up as much liquid. The Velveeta is necessary here, as it has sodium citrate, which prevents the sauce from separating in the oven. Elbow macaroni works fine, but cavatappi is an especially fun shape to eat with its telephone-cord bounciness.

Total time: 1 hour

1 pound cavatappi or elbow macaroni 1/2 cup unsalted butter 1/2 cup all-purpose flour 6 cups whole milk

1 pound sharp or extra-sharp yellow

cheddar, coarsely grated (5 1/4 cups) 8 ounces Velveeta, torn into pieces 4 ounces Pecorino Romano, coarsely grated (1 cup)

1/2 teaspoon dry mustard powder ¼ teaspoon onion powder Pinch of ground cayenne Freshly ground black pepper

1. Heat oven to 350 degrees. 2. Bring a large pot of water to a boil and season generously with salt. Add the pasta and cook according to package instructions, stirring occasionally with a wooden spoon, until just past al dente. Drain and set aside.

3. Return the empty pot to the stove (no need to clean it) and set over medium heat. Melt the butter and simmer, whisking occasionally, until the butter stops spurting and quiets down, 2 to 3 minutes. Add the flour and cook. whisking, until smooth like gravy, about 1

4. Whisk in the milk. Raise the heat to high and bring to a simmer, whisking constantly, then immediately reduce the heat to low and continue simmering until the sauce lightly coats the back of a spoon, 2 to 5 minutes. At this stage, the sauce should be smooth but relatively loose. Take the pot off the heat.

5. To the pot, add the cheddar, Velveeta, Pecorino Romano, mustard powder, onion powder and cayenne, and season generously with salt and black pepper. Whisk until the cheese is melted and smooth like nacho cheese. Add the drained pasta, breaking up any clumps, and stir until evenly coated in the cheese sauce. Taste and adjust seasoning with salt and pepper.

6. Transfer to 9-by-13-inch baking pan or dish and bake until bubbling at the edges, 15 to 20 minutes. Serve immediately.



Lemon buttermilk chess pie with a black pepper crust is inspired by an Edna Lewis recipe. KELLY MARSHALL/THE NEW YORK TIMES PHOTOS

A SLICE OF HOME

Lemon buttermilk chess pie serves up a sweet connection

By Yewande Komolafe The New York Times

n the decade I spent working in restaurant kitchens, I rarely felt an emotional connection with the food I was cooking.

This feeling of distance from the food I encountered here in the United States began almost as soon as I arrived from Nigeria as a young college student.

Very few dishes I ate growing up were reflected in the dining hall food served in my university, nor was there evidence of them in the recipes I fastidiously honed in culinary school after college, and in my first restaurant jobs in Baltimore.

When I moved to Atlanta in 2006. Edna Lewis, the great American chef and cookbook author, had just died. At the two restaurants where I worked, I started making Lewis' recipes, and began seeing in my own two hands the food that transported me home.

Those of us who work in restaurant kitchens know the physical and emotional demands of the job. We also know the intense connections we make with certain dishes on the menu.

Beyond making ends meet beyond just surviving - what I most remember chasing were the moments when a dish would



Cold butter is rubbed into a dry mixture by hand to help create the pie crust.

resonate with me. Most menu items needed to be executed as planned: precisely, and to the chef's instruction. But Lewis' recipes demanded working from feeling, faith and sensory cues, the way my mother and grandmother always had.

The two Atlanta restaurants I worked in, Restaurant Eugene and Watershed, featured farm-totable, regional Southern cuisine. Lewis' recipes punctuated the menus of both of those restaurants, serving as bold, playful metaphors for the happiness food can elicit.

I remember Steven Satterfield. my chef at Watershed, teaching me how to make a caramel glaze for Lewis' fresh apple cake, looking me over with curiosity as I made lab work of one of the steps. If I cooked the glaze too far, I thought, it would crystallize. My training urged me to use a thermometer. So many of the dishes I had made up to that point in my career felt as if they were the expression of some distant ideal — food I had never known growing up but sought to master

from technique. A French pastry's perfection drew on my science background, not my childhood memories.

But you don't need a thermometer, my chef told me.

What was central to her recipes, he said, was being present and paying close attention — the very qualities that had resonated with me.

I bought a copy of "The Gift of Southern Cooking" only when I was leaving Atlanta, bound for new opportunities in New York. When I finally sat down to it, I saw myself in the recipes that she collected, the techniques she shared and her stories.

To me, home is more about connection than a physical place. We may have spent our whole lives traveling or, alternatively, never leaving the few square miles of a birthplace, but it's our ties — to our memories, to one another - that inform what we think of as home.

This recipe is part of my idea of home. Although it is inspired by Lewis' buttermilk chess pie, it allowed me to bridge the gap between my two food worlds. Citrus and black pepper are additions I make to so many of my dishes – a little brightness, a little spice, a little sparkle. And jiggling the pie is an ode to Lewis, a way of following feeling and faith to know when the custard is just set.

Lemon buttermilk chess pie with black pepper crust

Makes: 8 to 10 servings Total time: 1 hour, plus at least 50 minutes' chilling

For the crust:

6 tablespoons cold unsalted butter, cut into ½-inch cubes, plus more for preparing the pan

11/2 cups all-purpose flour ⅓ cup sugar

1 teaspoon kosher salt (Diamond 11/4 teaspoon freshly ground black

1 tablespoon freshly grated lemon

2 egg yolks ¼ cup cold water

For the filling: 3 whole eggs

3 egg yolks

14 cups sugar 1/4 cup medium-coarse yellow

1/4 cup lemon juice

1 tablespoon grated lemon zest 1 teaspoon kosher salt (Diamond Crystal)

1 cup buttermilk, preferably full-fat ¼ cup unsalted butter, melted

Whipped heavy cream for serving 1. Prepare the pie crust:

Generously butter 10-inch round, fluted tart pan or 9-inch round pie dish. In medium bowl, combine the flour, sugar, salt, black pepper and lemon zest. Working quickly, rub the cold butter into the dry mixture using your fingers or a pastry cutter. Cut the butter into the flour until the pieces are the size of small pebbles. (Alternatively, use a food processor to pulse the dry ingredients with the butter.) Add the egg yolks and the cold water. Using your hands, combine just until the dough comes together in clumps. Gather dough into a ball; flatten into a disk, wrap in plastic and chill at least 30 minutes. 2. Heat oven to 375 degrees. Roll

out chilled dough between two sheets of parchment or on a lightly floured surface to a 12-inch round. Using the rolling pin, transfer dough into the prepared tart pan. Press the dough into the fluted sides and trim any overhang to 1/4 inch above the pan. If using a pie dish, skip the pressing step and trim any overhang to 1/4 inch above the inside of the dish. Chill the dough again for at least 20 minutes.

3. Line the pie dough with parchment paper and fill with pie weights or dried beans. Bake until the crust is lightly browned along the edges and beginning to firm up, about 18 minutes. Remove the pie weights and parchment and bake for an additional 5 minutes to lightly brown the edges. Press down the surface with the back of a spoon if the crust bubbles. Allow the crust to cool completely before filling. Adjust the oven temperature to 350 degrees. 4. As the crust cools, prepare the

filling: Whisk together eggs, yolks, sugar, cornmeal, lemon juice and zest and salt in a medium bowl. Stir in buttermilk and the melted butter. 5. Place the tart pan on a rimmed baking sheet and carefully pour the filling into the cooled pie shell. Bake until the filling is set and jiggles slowly when the pie pan is moved back and forth, about 35 to 40 minutes. Cool pie completely before slicing. Top with a dusting of powdered sugar and serve at room temperature or cold, with some whipped heavy cream on the side.

Sausages, grapes make unlikely pair

By Sheela Prakash TheKitchn.com

One of my favorite memories of living within a stone's throw of New York City's Union Square Greenmarket was the vendor who arrived every fall to sell a variety of sweet local grapes. They were a far cry from the bags of green and red grapes sold yearround at the grocery store. Their deep, almost floral fragrance filled the air, and they were so sweet that bees swarmed the stall.

This simple sheet pan dinner is a celebration of those grapes I anticipated each fall. These days, grocery store grapes are usually my only option, but that's hardly a problem here because roasting them draws out and caramelizes their juices. Pair them with savory Italian sausage links, thinly sliced shallots and rosemary, and the results are a surprisingly savory, sweet, juicy and warming dinner that's perfect for chilly nights.

Grapes and sausages might seem like an unlikely match, but they're proof that opposites attract. Italian sausage is rich with garlic and spices like fennel seeds and red-pepper flakes, while red grapes are honeyed and floral. As they mingle and roast on the sheet pan, they create a bold pan sauce that's made even more flavorful with the addition of caramelized shallots and earthy rosemary.

This is a dinner that's begging for crusty bread on the side to sop all that warm sauce.



Sweet meets savory in this fast yet fancy sheet pan dinner. JOE LINGEMAN/THEKITCHN.COM

Sheet pan roasted sausages and grapes

Makes: 4 to 6 servings 11/2 pounds seedless red grapes

3 medium shallots

2 sprigs fresh rosemary 2 tablespoons olive oil

1 teaspoon fennel seeds

½ teaspoon kosher salt ¼ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

11/2 pounds uncooked hot or sweet Italian sausage links (6 to 8 links) 1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar

1. Arrange a rack in the middle of the oven and heat the oven to 425 degrees.

2. Remove the stems from 1 ½ pounds seedless red grapes (about 3 ½ cups) and place the grapes on a rimmed baking sheet. **3. Prepare** the following, adding the ingredients to the baking sheet

as you go: Thinly slice 3 medium shallots (1 heaping cup). Strip the leaves from 2 fresh rosemary sprigs and coarsely chop (1 tablespoon).

4. Drizzle everything on the baking sheet with 2 tablespoons olive oil. sprinkle with 1 teaspoon fennel seeds, 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt and ¼ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper, and toss to coat. Spread out in an even layer.

5. Prick 1 ½ pounds uncooked Italian sausage links all over with a fork and nestle them among the grape mixture. Roast, flipping the sausages and tossing the grape mixture halfway through, until the sausages are browned and cooked through and the grapes have blistered and burst, 25 to 28 minutes.

6. Drizzle 1 tablespoon of balsamic vinegar over the sausages and grapes, toss to coat and serve.

Do nonalcoholic beers pass the flavor test?

By Patrick Holbrook The Columbus Dispatch

An alert reader wrote me and raised a great point: When going for long-haul football watching, it makes perfect sense to intersperse nonalcoholic beers along with the "real thing" for general health as well as for safety, especially when curtailing alcohol intake because driving is involved. And you'll feel much better the next day to boot.

My one reader and I agreed that NA beers have come a long way since the days when there was O'Doul's and not much else, and he pointed me toward WellBeing NA beers.

WellBeing is one of many, many options these days for those going alcohol-free for whatever the reason. Wellknown craft brewers Brew-Dog and Lagunitas, for example, have more than one offering, and WellBeing (which is exclusively NA) has seven, including an amber, a stout and a wheat. Countless other craft brewers have gotten in on the act as well

Major labels also have alcohol-free versions. including Budweiser, Coors, Heineken and Beck's. O'Doul's, once a laughingstock, is having the last laugh by still being around some 30 years after its initial release. Heck. even Old Milwaukee has

Amid the opening of niche bars that don't serve alcohol and the rise of alcohol-free "mocktails," there also is an increased market for NA beers of all stripes.

WellBeing's website tells the story behind its NA brews, how they are made and how they fit into a lifestyle that emphasizes having a good time without alcohol.

"Hi, I'm Jeff Stevens and I'm a Non-Alcoholic," is the opening greeting from Stevens, who, with his wife, Genevieve, founded Well-



Nonalcoholic beers, from left, BrewDog's Punk AF IPA; WellBeing's Intentional IPA; and Lagunitas' IPNA. PATRICK HOLBROOK/THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Stevens said he realized he would never have "a successful, harmonious relationship" with alcohol but still loved a lifestyle of socializing, seeing live music and being around friends. Drinking NA beers, he said, "in many ways it saved me" by allowing him to have fun while also staying sober.

Yet, as he saw craft beer boom, he questioned why NA beers generally remained stagnant and unevolving. A desire to remedy that, as well as provide tasty options for nondrinkers led to Well-Being, which promotes an alcohol-free lifestyle for both mental and physical health in addition to its

Though I use the term "beer" liberally throughout this review to describe NA brews, "near beer" is the legal/technical term, and the word "beer" appears nowhere on the labels of

tried, and instead is called "malt beverage." (The third was labeled as "near beer.")

So how, exactly, is near beer made? The answer, of course, is, "It's complicated."

Though beer's end users love the social nature of a rousing happy hour on Friday or the relaxing nature of winding down with a brew in the evening, in reality, the making of beer involves a hop ton of

The "Beer 101" page on the Lagunitas website has a kegful of information about the NA process that includes things such as "membrane filtration," "vacuum distillation," "arrested fermentation," "alternative yeasts/ microbes," "changed mashing regimes" and "the introduction of alternative microbes for fermentation."

As a longtime beer drinker, I can assure you

none of that, although "filtration," "distillation" and "fermentation" all rhyme, and some brewer out there with a Les Paul and a Marshall stack could write an arena rock anthem about it.

two of the beers sampled

for this review are 13 and

18 carbs per serving, which

is equal to or slightly lower

alcohol. If you're looking to

winner with only 2.3 grams

How do NA beers taste?

Not bad. Not bad at all.

As someone who likes

big, roasty stouts and

NA beers I tried to be

light-bodied. However,

enough and nuanced flavor

profile that can make you

forget you're not drinking

beer with alcohol. They

have very similar mouth-

If you haven't already,

there's no reason not to dip

your toe in the NA waters,

especially if you're look-

ing to cut back on alcohol

feel in terms of carbon-

they do have a hearty-

Imperial IPAs, I find the

of carbs per 12-ounce can,

with 20 calories.

cut carbs with an NA beer,

BrewDog's Punk AF is a

than a standard beer with

WellBeing, meanwhile, touts its high-tech extraction method in which it "funnels fully brewed craft beer through a vacuum and lowers the temperature to gently remove the alcohol. The finished product is a craft nonalcoholic beer that has all the body, aroma, mouthfeel and flavor of fully brewed craft beer."

However, after all that science-y alcohol-reduction stuff, it should be noted that many "nonalcohol" beers do contain trace amounts; the standard for NA beers is 0.5% alcohol by volume or less.

For carb-counters, the removal of alcohol doesn't always have a big effect on your Tuesday night beer or your third beer," Well-Being's Stevens told Feast Magazine in 2019. And that's a great

way to look at it. Want another beer but probably shouldn't? Grab an NA

You can scratch your beer itch without the negative effects of alcohol, it's an easy swap and these days there are lots of worthy options from which to choose.

There are many nonalcoholic beers available these days. Each of the following beers is available locally, though not every one might be in stock at every grocery store or carryout.

Intentional IPA (0.3% ABV): WellBeing Brewing Company, Maryland Heights, Missouri

\$10.99 for a four-pack of 16-ounce cans

The fullest-bodied of the three I tried, this well-balanced brew pours a deep copper with a slight cloud. Mosaic and Citra hops run the show here, giving it a profile of fruit and a mild bitterness that isn't overpowering.

Lagunitas IPNA (0.5%): Lagunitas Brewing Co.,

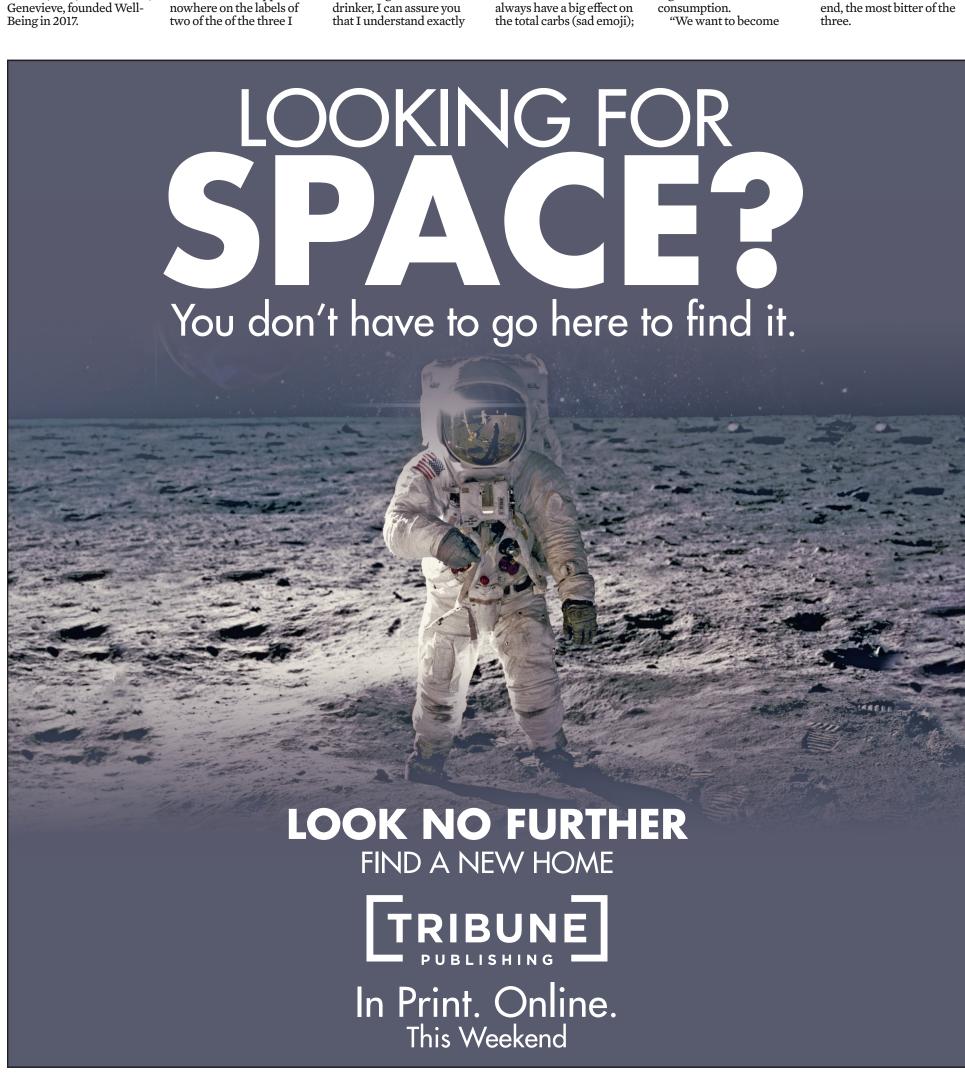
Petaluma, California \$9.99 for a six-pack of 12-ounce bottles

Those of a certain age (old) will remember Chris Schenkel touting "beer tastes better in a bottle." And, by jove, this beer does taste good in a bottle with standard IPA hop-forwardness (Citra and Mosaic, among others) and malt backing. It pours clear with an orange hue and has a light body with little bitterness

Punk AF IPA (0.5%): BrewDog, Canal Winchester

\$11.99 for a six-pack of 12-ounce cans

Pouring hazy with a light straw color, Punk has notes of lemon and pine with a hit of bitterness on the back end, the most bitter of the





These crisp and chewy coffee cake cookies are coated in buttery streusel. JOE LINGEMAN/THEKITCHN.COM

Cookies are a cozy treat

By Jesse Szewczyk TheKitchn.com

It's no surprise that I'm a big fan of cookies. But what you might not know is that I also really love coffee cake (so much so, in fact, that I created a 10-minute version). But instead of enjoying the two treats separately, I thought it would be far more exciting to combine them, creating the ultimate cozy dessert: crisp and chewy coffee cake cookies, complete with brown sugar and cinnamon, a buttery streusel coating and a drizzle of easy icing.

This step-by-step recipe will show you how to make them in four simple steps — all without having to bust out your mixer. Enjoy them with coffee for breakfast, with milk for dessert, or as part of a killer ice cream sandwich. Here's how to do it.

1. Make a simple sugar cookie dough.

You'll start by mixing up a super-easy sugar cookie dough by hand. Whisk together melted butter with white and brown sugars, vanilla extract and one egg plus one egg yolk. (The extra yolk makes the cookies super tender and chewy.) Then, mix in your dry ingredients - flour, cinnamon, salt, baking powder and baking soda — and the dough is done.

2. Whip up a buttery streusel.

After you make the dough, you'll whip up a simple coffee cake-style streusel that you'll roll the dough balls in before baking. To make it, mix melted butter, flour, brown and white sugars, cinnamon and salt together with your hands, squeezing it into little pea-sized clumps.

3. Roll the dough balls in the streusel.

Now for the fun part: coating the dough balls in the streusel. Portion the dough into 3-tablespoon-sized balls, dip in egg white (this will help make the streusel stick), and roll in the streusel, using your hands to gently press it into the dough. Repeat this process with all of the dough, place the dough balls on baking sheets, and bake.

4. Drizzle the baked cookies with a 2-ingredient icing.

After your cookies come out of the oven, let them cool completely. While they cool, make the icing, which is a simple combination of powdered sugar and milk. Whisk until the icing is pourable but not so thin that it's translucent, then drizzle it over the cookies. Let the cookies sit for about 10 minutes until the icing sets, then pour some cups of hot coffee to go along with the cookies and enjoy.

Coffee cake cookies

Makes: 18 (4-inch) cookies For the cookie dough:

2 sticks (1 cup) unsalted butter 2 3/4 cups all-purpose flour 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon 3/4 teaspoon kosher salt 1/2 teaspoon baking powder ½ teaspoon baking soda 1 cup granulated sugar 34 cup packed light or dark brown sugar

1 large egg 1 large egg yolk

1 tablespoon vanilla extract For the streusel coating: 4 tablespoons (½ stick) unsalted

½ cup all-purpose flour ½ cup packed light or dark brown

1/2 cup granulated sugar 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon ¼ teaspoon kosher salt 2 large egg whites

For the icing:

1 cup powdered sugar, plus more as needed

2 tablespoons milk (any kind), plus more as needed

1. Arrange 2 racks to divide the oven into thirds and heat the oven to 350 degrees. Line 3 baking sheets (or as many as you have) with parchment paper or silicone baking mats.

Make the dough:

1. Place 2 sticks unsalted butter in a large microwave-safe bowl and microwave in 20-second bursts until fully melted, 60 to 70 seconds total. (Alternatively, melt on the stovetop and transfer to a large bowl.)

2. Place 2 ¾ cups all-purpose flour, 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon, 34 teaspoon kosher salt, 1/2 teaspoon baking powder and ½ teaspoon baking soda in a medium bowl and whisk until combined.

3. Add 1 cup granulated sugar, 34 cup packed brown sugar, 1 large egg, 1 large egg yolk (reserve the white for streusel coating) and 1 tablespoon vanilla extract to melted butter. Whisk until smooth and glossy. Add flour mixture and stir with rubber spatula or wooden spoon just until flour is incorporated and a smooth dough forms.

Make the streusel coating:

1. Place 4 tablespoons unsalted butter in a medium microwave-safe bowl and microwave in 10-second bursts until fully melted, 30 to 40 seconds. (Or melt on the stovetop and transfer to a medium bowl.) 2. Add 1/2 cup all-purpose flour, 1/2 cup packed brown sugar, 1/2 cup granulated sugar, 2 teaspoons

ground cinnamon and ¼ teaspoon kosher salt. Using your fingertips, pinch and squeeze the dry ingredients into the melted butter until large, irregular clumps form and the mixture resembles wet sand. Whisk 2 large egg whites in a medium bowl until frothy. 3. Scoop out the dough with a

#24/2-inch-wide cookie scoop, or portion into 18 (about 3 scant tablespoon) portions, and roll into balls. (If the dough is too soft to roll into balls, let it sit for 10 minutes and try again.)

Prepare the cookies and bake:

1. Working with 1 dough ball at a time, roll in the egg whites, allowing the excess to drip off, then transfer it into the streusel. Toss until completely coated in streusel, using your hands to gently press the streusel into the dough to help it stick. (Make sure to use one hand for tossing the dough balls in the egg whites and one for tossing in the streusel to prevent the streusel from getting wet.) Place at least 2 inches apart on the baking sheets, 6 per sheet. Top the cookie dough balls with the remaining streusel, mounding it at the top of the cookie

2. Bake first 2 sheets for 8 minutes. Rotate the baking sheets from front to back and top to bottom and bake until cracks start forming, 7 to 10 minutes more. Let cool slightly on the baking sheets for 5 minutes, then transfer onto a wire rack to cool completely, about 30 minutes.

3. Bake the final batch on the upper rack, rotating it front to back halfway through baking, 15 to 18 minutes total. (If reusing a baking sheet to bake this batch, let it cool for 15 minutes first.)

Make the icing:

1. Place 1 cup powdered sugar and 2 tablespoons milk in a small bowl and whisk until the powdered sugar is completely dissolved. The glaze should be thick yet pourable. If too thin, whisk in more powdered sugar 1 tablespoon at a time. If too thick, whisk in more milk 1 teaspoon at a time. Drizzle the icing over the cookies in a zig-zag pattern and let sit for 10 minutes for the icing to set before serving.

Make-ahead: Both the cookie dough and streusel can be prepared up to four days in advance and refrigerated separately tightly covered in plastic wrap. When ready to bake, let the dough sit at room temperature until it's soft enough to roll into balls and coat in the streusel, 20 to 30 minutes.



ELLE SIMONE/AMERICA'S TEST KITCHEN

These fluffy dinner rolls really rise to the occasion

America's Test Kitchen

The fancy French word for dough shaped in a ball is boule. Bread makers use the same technique to form a tight ball of dough for a large loaf of bread and for small individual dough balls, such as these fluffy dinner rolls.

While it takes two hands to form a large loaf into a boule, you can make a small one with just one cupped hand. If you get really good at it, you can even do two balls at once — one in each hand!

Fluffy dinner rolls

Makes: 9 rolls

21/2 cups (121/2 ounces) all-purpose flour 2 1/4 teaspoons instant or rapid-rise yeast 1 teaspoon salt

34 cup (6 ounces) whole milk 4 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted 2 tablespoons honey

1 large egg yolk Vegetable oil spray

1 large egg, cracked into bowl and lightly beaten with fork

1. In the bowl of a stand mixer, whisk together flour, yeast and salt. Lock the bowl in place and attach the dough hook to the stand mixer. In a 4-cup liquid measuring cup, whisk milk, melted butter, honey and egg yolk until honey has dissolved, about 20 seconds. 2. Start the mixer on low speed and slowly pour in the milk mixture. Mix until no dry flour is visible, about 2 minutes. Increase speed to medium and knead dough for 8 minutes. 3. Transfer the dough to a clean counter and knead dough for 30 seconds, then form the dough into smooth ball. Spray a large bowl with vegetable oil spray. Place the dough in the greased bowl and cover with plastic

wrap. Let the dough rise until doubled in size, 1½ to 2 hours.

4. Transfer the dough to a clean counter and use your hands to gently press down on the dough to pop any large bubbles. Pat the dough into a 6-inch square and use a bench scraper to cut the dough into 9 equal squares. Form each piece of dough into a tight, smooth ball.

5. Spray inside bottom and sides of 8-inch square metal baking pan with vegetable oil spray. Arrange dough balls in 3 rows in a greased baking pan. Cover the baking pan loosely with plastic. Let the dough balls rise until doubled in size, about 1 hour.

6. While the dough rises, adjust the oven rack to middle position and heat oven to 350 degrees. When the dough is ready, use a pastry brush to paint the tops of the dough balls with the beaten egg.

7. Place the baking pan in the oven. Bake until rolls are golden brown, 20 to 25 minutes. Place the baking pan on a cooling rack and let rolls cool in pan for 30 minutes. Turn the baking pan upside down to release rolls from pan. Turn the rolls right-side up and use your hands to pull them apart. Serve warm or at room temperature.

Tasty vegetable dish is destined to be fall staple

By Ellen Ecker Ogden | Eatingwell

This tart starts with a cheddar cheese crust that's filled with roasted leeks, fennel and broccoli or Brussels sprouts. Beets or cauliflower would stand in beautifully, too.

Roasted fall vegetables in cheddar crust

Makes: 8 servings Active time: 45 minutes Total time: 1 hour, 45 minutes

For the filling: 2 leeks, white and light green parts only, coarsely chopped and rinsed

1 pound small broccoli florets or Brussels sprouts, trimmed and cut in half

1 large or 2 small fennel bulbs, cored and thinly sliced lengthwise 1/2 cup thinly sliced red onion

1 head garlic 1 tablespoon chopped fresh rosemary or 1 teaspoon dried ½ teaspoon salt

¼ teaspoon freshly ground 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

1 tablespoon sherry vinegar 1/3 cup black olive tapenade ½ cup crumbled goat cheese For the crust:

11/4 cups white whole-wheat flour

1 cup shredded reduced-fat cheddar cheese ½ cup cornmeal

4 tablespoons cold unsalted butter, cut into small pieces 3 tablespoons canola or extra-virgin olive oil 3 tablespoons ice water

1. Preheat oven to 400 2. To prepare filling: Spread

leeks, broccoli (or Brussels sprouts), fennel and onion in a single layer on a large rimmed baking sheet along with the unpeeled head of garlic. Season the vegetables with rosemary, salt and pepper. Drizzle oil over the vegetables and garlic, and toss to coat.

3. Bake, stirring occasionally, until the vegetables are tender when pierced with a knife and the garlic is soft, 35 to 45 minutes. Remove from



You can make the crust up to three days ahead of time. KEN BURRIS/EATINGWELL

the oven, set aside the garlic, and toss the vegetables with vinegar. Let cool. 4. To prepare crust: Coat

an 8-by-12-inch rectangular or 11-inch round removablebottom tart pan with cooking spray. 5. Place flour, cheddar

and cornmeal in food processor; pulse to combine. Add butter one piece at a time, pulsing once or twice after each addition. until incorporated. Add oil and water and pulse just until dough starts to come together. Turn dough out into prepared pan (it will be crumbly), spread evenly and press firmly into the bottom and all the way up the sides to form a crust. Refrigerate until ready to bake.

6. When vegetables are done, reduce oven temperature to 350 degrees.

Bake crust until set but not

browned, about 15 minutes.

7. Place the tart pan on a baking sheet. Spread tapenade over the bottom of the crust. Top with the roasted vegetables. Cut off the top of the garlic and squeeze out the cloves onto the vegetables. Sprinkle with goat cheese. 8. Bake tart until edges of

the crust are golden brown, about 25 minutes. Let cool for 10 minutes before removing the pan sides and cutting into squares.

Notes: To make ahead, prepare the crust (Step 4), wrap tightly and refrigerate for up to three days. Black olive tapenade is a thick paste made from olives, garlic and other flavorful ingredients. To make your own for this recipe, puree 1/2 cup pitted Kalamata olives, 1 clove peeled garlic and 1 teaspoon balsamic vinegar in a food processor until it forms a thick paste.